

Times sponsors unique display of Old Masters



Henry VIII by Hans Holbein the younger

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

An initiative by *The Times* will bring 50 paintings from the world's greatest private collection of Old Masters to the Royal Academy in London.

The exhibition of works belonging to Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza will be sponsored by *The Times* and will be held from March 18 to June 12 next year.

It will provide a unique opportunity for the British public to see the greatest pictures from the most remarkable private collection in the world, the Queen's apart. As Piers Rogers, the Royal Academy's secretary, says: "It will be an extraordinary opportunity to see a complete anthology of what's best in Euro-

pean paintings from the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries".

Yesterday the Baron expressed pleasure that the paintings are coming to London: "I am very excited, I am sure they will look very fine".

One spectacular focus will be the famous portrait of Henry VIII by Hans Holbein the younger; the only autographed painting of the King by that artist, and sold by the Earl of Spencer to the Baron's father in 1934.

A German born in Augsburg about 1497, Holbein had emigrated to London in the 1530s, and was Henry's court painter until his death from plague in 1543. The portrait shows a full-jowled and bearded Henry in all

his finery, from jaunty feather-tipped hat to jewel-encrusted robe.

Executed soon after his marriage to Jane Seymour about 1537, its return to London entails a near-meeting between Henry and one of his prospective wives, in the form of Christina of Denmark, also painted by Holbein, and on permanent view at the National Gallery.

The exhibition includes an impressive line-up of Renaissance portraits such as Memling's sensitive Young Man, his hands folded in prayer; the Master of Sienalle's frank portrait of the statesman Robert de Meaux, looking chubby and crabby.

From the same era, comes the Virgin and Child enthroned by the Flemish artist, Rogier van der

Weyden. Sitting in peaceful harmony, suckling her newborn child, beneath an ornate Gothic arch, she conveys the essence of this artist's greatness: realism coupled with psychological acumen. It was to influence many of the great artists who followed.

There is Albrecht Dürer's "Christ Among the Doctors", a virtuoso painting demonstrating the influence of Leonardo in the doctors' ageing faces, painted while the artist was based in Venice, followed by two Annunciations by El Greco, painted both early and late in his career, the first an intimate encounter on a mortal scale, the second an elaborate ethereal event accompanied by a full choir of angels.

A gorgeously attired young woman, with smooth skin, ornate hair and cynical eyes is by Dürer's pupil, Hans Baldung, called Grien.

Dutch seventeenth century painting comes alive with intimate genre scenes, landscapes and church interiors by de Hooch, Crisp and Sacredam, while eighteenth century France is represented by hedonists Boucher and Watteau. "La Toilette" by Boucher shows two young ladies revealing more than just their ankles as they dress; Watteau's "Pierrot Content" - which shows a group of women sitting on a grassy bank with the tragic-comic character Pierrot - is one of the earliest works from the artist's series of Fêtes Gallantes exploring the psychology of love.

The exhibition will progress to a climax with a series of great Baroque masterpieces, by artists from both north and south: Frans Hals's "Fisherman Playing the Violin", Rubens's "Portrait of a Lady with a Rosary", Van Dyck's "Portrait of Jacques Le Roy", and also, the painting of St Catherine by the master of dramatic Effect - Caravaggio.

Baron Thyssen's collection is usually housed at the Villa Favorita at Lugano, Switzerland, both his home and a public gallery. It was begun in the 1920s by the present Baron's father. He in turn greatly expanded it, and opened the galleries to the public in 1948. The family's fortune was founded by the present Baron's

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'Hotel charge' proposed for health service

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government is considering a proposal to charge patients for food and accommodation at health service hospitals. Medical care itself will be free.

The "hotel charges" proposal is one of several options being considered, but Mr Antony Newton, the Minister for Health, yesterday effectively ruled out the possibility of charges for people visiting their family doctor.

Tory think tanks have suggested charging patients for family GP visits as a means of reducing unnecessary calls. They say such a scheme would discriminate against those who waste health service resources, rather than those genuinely in need of medical attention.

But ministers are understood to take the view that forcing people to pay for visiting the doctor, even if exceptions were made for the old and needy, would deter some people from seeking treatment as early as they should and possibly add to costs in the long run.

Mr Newton said on BBC Radio Four's *World This Week* yesterday that charges for visiting GPs were "not something for which we've got plans".

However, he confirmed that the idea of bed and board charges for hospital patients

had been put forward. "It would be foolish to get set in concrete and say that this is something we won't in any circumstances consider", he said.

He admitted, however, that there would be "quite a lot of problems in working that out".

Among the ideas for restructuring health service finance being pressed on the

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Government is the suggestion that the 14 regional health boards in England should be abolished. But although the idea is to be considered along with others, ministers are by no means convinced that it would help.

Ministers would face enormous problems in dealing directly with 191 district health authorities. They fear that it could spawn an even bigger bureaucracy in the DHSS to deal with the problems of resource allocation and day-to-day management.

One area the Government is to examine closely is that of consultants' contracts. Ministers would like to see them changed from life to a shorter term, and are considering whether contracts should continue to be held at regional level, or whether district health authorities should have more say.

Senior ministers accept that the pumping into the health service of another £100 million in an emergency package last week has bought time only, and that the major problems of restructuring health finance must be tackled in this Parliament.

It is also becoming widely accepted in the Government that it simply will not be enough to ensure that existing resources are better spent and that hospitals are taught new

ways of income-generation by running shops and banks on their premises.

The Government's political problems were underlined yesterday when a poll of 135 Conservative MPs conducted for London Weekend Television's *Weekend World* showed that 68 per cent of them believed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should not sacrifice his prospects of tax cuts next spring in order to find more money for the health service.

Of those polled, 63 per cent were in favour of hospital bed and board charges, with exemptions for the old and needy, and 56 per cent were in favour of charges for visits to GPs. Only 34 per cent were firmly opposed.

On tax concessions for private health insurance, 65 per cent were in favour and only 32 per cent against, although the Prime Minister has already ruled out that option.

Sir Barney Hayhoe, a former Minister for Health, warned Tories yesterday not to get out of step with the views of the country on the health service. He said that while the various options for restructuring health service finance should be widely debated, they had not been presented in the last Conservative election manifesto, and should not be implemented until after another general election.

A recent Gallup poll showed that 90 per cent of the public were opposed to the introduction of charges for dental checks and eye tests.

The Government was at pains yesterday to lower expectations about the meeting early next month between Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Newton, and the presidents of the royal medical colleges. A statement emphasized that the meeting was purely for discussion, and would not be a negotiating occasion.

Thatcher insistent on meeting with Walesa

By Robin Oakley and Nicholas Wood

Mrs Thatcher is understood to be insisting that she will call off her visit to Poland, tentatively scheduled for Whit- sun, unless she is given an assurance that she can meet Lech Walesa, the former Solidarity leader.

That could pose difficulties for the Polish authorities and provoke demonstrations in Poland where Mrs Thatcher is admired for her stand on human rights.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, was applauded by 800 Poles shouting

"Solidarity" and "Long Live England" when, in 1985, he lit a candle at the grave of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity priest murdered by the secret police in 1984.

Any meeting between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Walesa would be likely to spark off a far more extensive demonstration.

Mrs Thatcher, who accepted the invitation from Professor Marian Orzechowski, the Polish Foreign Minister, is said to have a deep affinity with the Poles.



An Israeli soldier grimacing as he and riot police fire tear gas towards Palestinian demonstrators at the Anata refugee camp in the West Bank yesterday

Threat to Bethlehem festivities

From Ian Murray, Bethlehem

The traditional Christmas in Bethlehem is under threat as disturbances in the Israeli occupied territories continue.

Palestinian activists, encouraged by worldwide condemnation of Israel for its current policies, are considering how to exploit the propaganda value of a time when the Christian world focuses on the birthplace of Jesus. Palestinian sources say they are delighted with the way the demonstrations and the violence in the occupied territories have captured world attention.

One well-connected source said: "People are having to die to make the world wake up but at last that is happening."

He would not say if anything was being planned in

Bethlehem over Christmas, but the possibility must exist, now that Palestinians have seen Israel so widely condemned.

The attitude of Egypt and the United States worries Israel the most. The Egyptians yesterday called in the Israeli Ambassador in Cairo to make a fifth formal protest in only 10 days about Israeli behaviour in the territories.

There is growing concern in the Israeli Foreign Ministry that Washington may support a UN Security Council resolution later this year condemning Israel - even though there has been no sign of such an imminent reversal of America's consistent support for Israel.

In Bethlehem, Mr Elias

Freij, the Christian Mayor, promised yesterday that the Christmas celebrations would go ahead as usual. "Christmas is special and the whole world will be looking towards Bethlehem and the infant child who was born there," he said.

"We will keep our Christmas celebrations, according to protocol and tradition. I will never mix religion and politics. Even though I am totally disappointed with the policies and the actions of the Army in the Arab regions, Christmas is Christmas and I think we should honour the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas Day."

But Mr Freij later met with Palestinian leaders, including lawyers and trade unionists who advised him that it would

be in everyone's interests to cancel the usual festivities, including the procession of the Catholic Patriarch and mid-night carol singing in Manger Square.

The Mayor was last night still considering the proper response to an appeal from such an influential group.

It is clear, too, that the overstretched Israeli security forces are even more apprehensive about policing Bethlehem this Christmas than usual.

Every year, they mount a large-scale operation in the town, rounding up dozens of potential troublemakers in the days before December 25 and sending in large numbers of

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Maxwell Watford bid is off

Mr Elton John, the Watford Football Club chairman, was back in charge yesterday after asking Mr Robert Maxwell to withdraw the offer of BPCC, his company, to buy his shares for around £2 million.

Mr John, whose club had become a pawn in a power struggle between Mr Maxwell and the Football League, was keen to extricate Watford from the squabble. The League objected to Mr Maxwell controlling Watford as well as Derby County, where he is the chairman, and Oxford United, where Kevin, a son, is in charge. John said the decision placed the clubs in an impossible position.

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IN PART 2

Texaco settles
Texaco, the US oil conglomerate, has agreed to pay out \$5.5 billion (£3 billion) to end its four-year battle with Pennzoil over the purchase of Getty Oil. Page 19

SAS offer
An increased bid by Scandinavian Airlines System for a 23.5 per cent share of British Caledonian is expected today or tomorrow. Page 19

Venables joy
Tottenham Hotspur celebrated their first victory under Terry Venables, beating Derby County 2-1. Page 28

Portfolio
A Berkshire reader won the £3,000 weekly prize in the Times Portfolio Gold competition on Saturday. The £4,000 daily prize was won by a London reader. Details, page 3.
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Kasparov set to be a millionaire

A triumphant Gary Kasparov was crowned on Saturday night for the third time in two years as chess champion of the world, and metaphorically danced on the grave of his defeated foe, Anatoly Karpov.

As he downed Spanish champion Kasparov, aged 24, looked forward with relish to the three-year treadmill Karpov will have to embark on if he wants to challenge again. "Three years, three years," the young Russian chanted.

The enfant terrible of glasnost, a long-time critic of the Soviet chess establishment, is now set to become a Marxist millionaire. With three years as champion ahead he can concentrate on making chess a supremely bankable proposition.

When he sits down to defend his title in 1990, he may well face a Briton. Nigel Short is already in the qualifying tournament.

Full reports, page 2

Workers 'open to blanket dismissal'

By Howard Foster

A controversial ruling by a senior judge has left company employees open to blanket dismissal if their employers suspect just one of them of dishonesty.

The possibility of a group of workers in a shop or factory being dismissed because of unsolved crime was opened last October when Mr Justice Popplewell, president of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, decided that employers were entitled to dismiss a group of workers in the hope of getting rid of persons unknown who were responsible for pilfering.

The ruling, previously unreported, has been highlighted in an issue of the *Law Society Gazette*. Four women who worked part-time for a Liverpool off-licence lost their jobs when their employers, Whitbread, unable to trace the culprit or culprits responsible for serious stock losses,

carried out the blanket dismissals.

The women won their cases for unfair dismissal at an industrial tribunal but the company, won a tribunal appeal before Mr Justice Popplewell, who headed the Bradford fire inquiry. The case is now before the Court of Appeal.

The judgement means that employers can dismiss staff even though they know that some of them are probably innocent. Mr Justice Popplewell ruled that even though some workers in such situations might be blameless, there were times when employers would be justified in carrying out wholesale dismissals in an attempt to deal with problems such as those experienced by Whitbread.

He laid down guidelines setting out the criteria necessary to justify such a move.

Continued on page 18, col 1

BBC apologizes for Queen's broadcast leak

By David Sapped

The BBC admitted responsibility yesterday for the embarrassing publication of the contents of the Queen's Christmas broadcast and ordered a full, internal inquiry.

Earlier in the day, the BBC had blamed tabloid newspapers for disclosing the details in advance. The corporation's acceptance of responsibility, with an apology to Buckingham Palace over the incident, cleared Downing Street and members of the Royal Household, both of which were initially implicated, of any involvement.

The story was broken after Mr Michael Cole, the BBC Court Correspondent, discussed the Queen's broadcast with nine other journalists at a private luncheon last Friday. Details appeared in six tabloid newspapers on Saturday.

Mr Teddy Taylor, the former Conservative minister, said yesterday: "When information about the Queen is entrusted to a limited number of people, it is essential this is respected. Otherwise, next time, it could be a leak about something important", he said.

The BBC refused to confirm that Mr Cole was responsible for the leak. Mr Cole, aged 44, also declined to discuss the issue yesterday.

Buckingham Palace had already described the leaking as "regrettable". Mr Cole was the only person to have seen the recording who attended the informal Christmas luncheon.

A BBC statement released yesterday said: "The BBC regrets that the confidentiality of the contents of the Queen's broadcast has been breached

before transmission by whatever source. We will be conducting an internal inquiry".

Court correspondents from only four organizations, the BBC, ITN, Independent Radio News and the Press Association, are allowed to see a transcript of the message beforehand.

The court correspondents of ITN, IRN and PA were not at the turkey luncheon. Among them was a correspondent from *The Times*, which decided not to break the embargo.

The *Times* correspondent Alan Hamilton writes: The £25-a-head informal gathering was intended as a purely social occasion. During the lunch Mr Cole mentioned details of the broadcast on what he could reasonably have assumed was an entirely off-the-record basis.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Test rule waived for private pupils

Bright pupils in independent schools can be expected to take the Government's proposed national tests up to a year earlier than their contemporaries in state schools. Ministers want to allow tests that the tests will hold back brighter pupils and are emphasizing that there is to be considerable latitude on the age of tested pupils. However, in doing so they appear to be denying one of the reasons for setting the tests: to discover the range of achievement between pupils at the same stage. Although the independent sector is not to be bound by the national curriculum or the taking of tests at 7, 11 and 14, top independent heads voiced their colleagues' concerns over the proposals to Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, last week.

The group was told by Mr Baker that the Education Reform Bill will not force children to take the tests at exactly the same age. Yesterday Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State, Department of Education, said that it would be counter-productive to allow the tests to inhibit individual pupils.

IRA false cash cards

The IRA has issued members with false bank cash cards in an effort to reduce "freelance" robberies in the Irish Republic, police believe.

Three of the bogus cards were found on IRA suspects questioned by police during the recent nationwide search in the republic for IRA arms.

The cards were all issued from the same Bank of Ireland account in a Dublin branch of the bank.

Security sources believe the account was opened for the IRA's use by a Belfast man living in the republic.

Murder charge

A girl aged 15 is due to appear before magistrates at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, today charged with murder.

The girl, who has not been named, was arrested on Saturday.

The arrest came after police had discovered the body of a youth aged 17 at a house in Clumber Street, Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.

The youth, who has not been named, is thought to have died from stab wounds.

Police described the killing as "a domestic incident".

Iran delays response

Iran was yesterday debating whether to capitalize on the random customs inspection with sniffer dogs of an Iran Air aircraft at Heathrow Airport last week or to reinstate its lucrative London route, suspended for the past week. The incident led to Iranian outrage.

An Iran Air official said at the time that the presence of dogs, considered unclean by Islam, was sacrilegious. The search found nothing. Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Iranian speaker of parliament, citing the incident, accused Britain of "acting wickedly".

Disaster fund run Engraving recovered

Fifteen West Midlands firemen and two mechanics raised £1,700 for the King's Cross disaster fund yesterday by running 130 miles to London. They set off from Walsall for King's Cross on Saturday and ran through the night in relays.

They handed their cheque to Mr Frank Dobson, Labour MP for Holborn and St. Pancras, whose constituency includes King's Cross. The disaster fund now stands at more than £500,000.

A police appeal to identify one victim attracted more than 85 telephone calls, but has met with no success.

Rabies risk denied

The Government yesterday vigorously denied suggestions that the proposed relaxation of border controls between EEC member states would increase the risk of rabies reaching Britain. Mrs Barbara Castle, member of the European Parliament for Greater Manchester West, was reported in a Sunday newspaper as claiming that the present quarantine regulations in Britain and the Irish Republic would be declared illegal, under pressure from West Germany.

Rabies is endemic in continental Europe, but Britain and Ireland have been free of the disease for many decades.

Walsh squares up to Scargill in public debate

By Roland Radd

Mr Arthur Scargill was billed as the defender and Mr John Walsh the contender in the first "trial by fire" of the National Union of Mineworkers presidential campaign, when they met face to face at the weekend on Central Television's *Central Weekend Live*.

Mr Walsh said he was contesting the election because he could not accept the way the union had been run over the past six years.

"The policy of confrontation promised us many re-

wards, but all we received was a reduction in our terms and conditions", he said.

The union desperately needed a leader who could unite members. He blamed present disunity on Mr Scargill's support for the Yorkshire decision to strike in 1984.

"Mr Scargill was in the chair at the time and could have ruled Yorkshire out of order. Had that taken place, we would not have been in a situation where this union is divided now."

Mr Scargill accused Mr

Walsh of wanting to merge the NUM with the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

He said he could remite the union, but not by talking to the UDM which, he said, was out to destroy the NUM.

He accused Mr Walsh of ignoring conference decisions when the North Yorkshire agent voted in 1977 against a national ballot and conference decision to implement the incentive bonus scheme.

Mr Walsh made it clear that he was proud to be associated with Lord Gormley, then

NUM president, during a period when "average wages went up by 476 per cent and the cost of living by 272 per cent — under any description, that was a success".

The industry had to get away from the massive capital debt around its neck by persuading the Government to write off development costs. "That will transform this industry's financial position overnight", Mr Walsh said.

Mr Scargill's final message to the miners was simple: "The fact that the Tories, the

coal board and the UDM are backing Mr Walsh is the best recommendation why miners should vote for me".

The presidential campaign continues today, with Mr Scargill holding a rally at Eastington, Co Durham, and Mr Walsh travelling to Cardiff at the invitation of the white-collar union, Cofa.

Meanwhile, the leader of the pit deputies' union, Nacods, Mr Peter McNestry, alleged yesterday that British Coal had approached members of his union to have "chats" about voting against Mr Scargill.

The union is to send out circulars to all branches advising their men to resist interference.

The deputies will start a national ballot today on the coal board's latest pay offer. Leaders are hoping for a massive rejection, claiming that they lost out on last year's wage consolidation deal.

● Sixteen miners were trapped in a cage for three hours at Houghton Main colliery, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, after an electrical fault developed yesterday.

No one was injured.

Union chief threatens HQ lock-out for Militant

By Roland Radd

Militant executive members of Britain's largest Civil Service union could be locked out of their union headquarters if the bitter fight between political factions again breaks out in violence.

Mr John Ellis, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, said it was time to take drastic measures to stop the "appalling harassment and intimidation" of union officials at the association's headquarters in south London.

Mr Ellis yesterday said his executive, dominated by supporters of Militant Tendency, could have no idea how much he "abhorred violence which can ruin people's lives".

He added that he now wanted to make it "crystal clear that if there is one further incident of threatened violence in the headquarters I will ask for a personal guarantee from every executive member to act in a moderate, democratic manner. If that is not forthcoming, I shall lock them out of the union building for good."

Police are investigating allegations that Mr Barry Reamsbottom, editor of the union's journal, was violently threatened and abused by four executive members last week.

Mr Reamsbottom said he works constantly with the threat of violence hanging over him.

Since that incident new allegations of Militant intimidation have come to light which include:

● Continued threats of harassment against Mrs Kate Losinska, veteran right-winger and senior vice-president. Mrs Losinska says she works "under an appalling strain with the fear of further threats of abuse and violence".

● Intimidation against a staff member who refused to hand over the association's edu-

cation programme to a Militant member of the executive.

● Warnings to union officials to come over to the Militant Broad Left "for their own good" by a senior executive member.

Mr John Macreadie, the Militant deputy general secretary, dismisses the allegations as a "pack of lies" and accuses the right wing of the union, and Mr Ellis, of constantly "running to the press with concocted stories and lies".

Mr Ellis said he is planning to take legal action so Mr Macreadie will not get away with such an "appalling slur without paying a heavy price". The union's two most senior officials are now not talking to each other.

Mr Macreadie has accused the minority National Moderate Group of "denigrating" the union executive for their own political aims.

He has warned Mr Ellis that the membership would not be fooled by "smokescreens" from seeing that the crucial issue facing the union was the appalling "poverty wages" that most Civil Servants earned.

Mrs Losinska yesterday called for a public Government inquiry into "the deep-rooted infiltration of the Militant tendency in the Civil Service".

Mrs Losinska said it was time that the Government reacted to the threat in its own backyard, which she alleges is driving moderates out of the association.

Meanwhile, an internal union investigation has got under way to report on the intimidation allegations at the next executive meeting.

Mr Ellis has asked all those involved for a written statement of their version of the events before he makes a recommendation to the executive.

Cards finished Karpov



Victor and vanquished: Gary Kasparov (left) and Anatoly Karpov in Seville on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, Seville

Gary Kasparov, the first player in more than 75 years to come from behind to win the world chess championship, decided on the strategy while playing cards only minutes before the final game.

"I put myself in his shoes", Kasparov said while celebrating victory at his villa near Seville and explaining how he broke down Karpov's notorious iceberg-like defence with only one chance remaining.

"The worst thing in the world when you want to draw, just to draw, so very, very much, is to face long, slow, torturing pressure."

"Of course, Karpov would have loved it if I had come out with all guns blazing. He would have been forced to find a few accurate moves, to respond to direct threats, and then it would have been over."

"I decided on my game strategy while playing cards with my team just 15 minutes before the game."

"I would avoid all exchanges, torture him, offer him possibilities that almost equalized, possibilities that required precise calculation, when all he wanted to do was make a very clear draw."

"He wanted that so badly, but he got short of time and then I pounced on him. Now he will have to spend three years qualifying to play me again."

The youth of the defending champion, who is aged 24, came to the fore as he talked incessantly about his win. He bubbled, almost hysterically, about brilliant

coups, missed opportunities, Karpov's terrible adjournment analysis.

Kasparov was clearly furious about the defection during the championship of his psychologist, Tokif Dadashov, to Anatoly Karpov's side. But he added: "There are some things in this world more powerful than psychologists, parapsychologists, or magic tricksters". He smiled broadly and pointed to his head.

"Dadashov is from Azerbaijan, just like me. It was a double betrayal. But a traitor is a traitor. I won't be fooled again."

A notable guest at Kasparov's victory celebration was the Spanish International Master, Dr Ricardo Calvo. Also a chess journalist, he had been declared "persona non grata" two weeks previously by Fide, chess's ruling body, for publishing a critical account of Fide activities in a Dutch chess magazine.

Speaking at a closing news conference yesterday, Kasparov declared "not having been able to develop all my chess potential" because of the great pressure he was under during the 24-game, 10-week championship match.

"I had to fight not only for the title, but for the end of the dictatorship in the chess world", he said.

He said he "preferred" the close finish to the championship "because talk and rumours of Karpov's iron will and his fighting capabilities became in my opinion too noisy".

Kasparov said he played far below his best form in the title duel.

The cliff-hanging 24th game "was the only game I played like the real Kasparov".

He said he felt he had only about a 50 per cent chance to win the 24th game when play adjourned on Friday. "But psychologically Karpov had been in despair".

He had reached his personal psychological low point, he said, during the 23rd game that Karpov won brilliantly. It gave the challenger a great 12-1 advantage going into the final game.

"In that game, I suffered terribly. At one point I even saw momentarily my defeat", Kasparov said. "But I managed to resolve the problem and save my name and my honour."

Karpov, who looked shattered, crushed beyond belief as his 4th match against Kasparov in three years ended in another setback, left Seville early yesterday morning without giving a news conference.

But before he left, I asked him: "Will you qualify to play against Kasparov again?"

"Of course", the champion for 10 years (1975-1985) responded. "We are the two best."

But what if you and Kasparov have to carry on playing each other for another twenty years? Won't you become bored? Are you really looking forward to that? "With pleasure", Karpov snarled. I believe him.

Gambler turns on dazzling display

By Our Chess Correspondent, Seville

Gary Kasparov, the world chess champion, saved his title on Saturday in a near miraculous final game.

Having gone one down in game twenty-three after the most disastrous blunder of his career, Kasparov was faced with the near impossible task of winning to order the twenty-fourth game to remain as champion.

The feat had not been achieved since 1910 when Emanuel Lasker, of Germany, saved his title against Karl Schlechter.

But Kasparov, playing white, did it in the gambling style which has so endeared him to the public. Karpov, hit by increasingly serious time pressure, was forced to resign on the sixty-fourth move.

Kasparov's opened unexpectedly quietly but as the game wore on it became clear he had accurately calculated all possible downsides implied by the reticent opening.

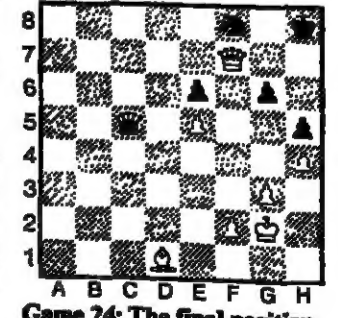
On move thirty the champion tried the critical game, offering a pawn sacrifice. Karpov snatched the pawn but, stunned by the unexpected turn of events, defended inaccurately and found himself exposed.

In order to beat off the onslaught Karpov was obliged to shed a pawn himself.

When play resumed, it became apparent that Karpov and his helpers had miscalculated.

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	e5	34 Qc5	Kf7
2 Nf3	Nf6	35 Ne7	Ng6
3 Bb5	Bc7	36 Qd6	Qd7
4 d4	d5	37 Qe4	Qd7
5 Bg2	d4	38 Bc4	Kg8
6 e5	d5	39 Qe5	Nf8
7 Qe2	d7	40 Qxd6	Qd8
8 c3	Nd7	41 Qe5	Qd7
9 Nc3	Nd7	42 Kg2	g6
10 Ne2	g6	43 Qe5	Qd7
11 Qd2	g5	44 Qe5	Qd7
12 Qc2	h5	45 Kf1	h4
13 Qd2	h4	46 Qe5	Qd7
14 Qd5	h3	47 Qe5	Qd7
15 Qd4	h2	48 Qe5	Qd7
16 Qd3	h1	49 Qe5	Qd7
17 Qd2	h1	50 Qe5	Qd7
18 Qd1	h1	51 Qe5	Qd7
19 Qd0	h1	52 Qe5	Qd7
20 Qd1	h1	53 Qe5	Qd7
21 Qd2	h1	54 Qe5	Qd7
22 Qd3	h1	55 Qe5	Qd7
23 Qd4	h1	56 Qe5	Qd7
24 Qd5	h1	57 Qe5	Qd7
25 Qd6	h1	58 Qe5	Qd7
26 Qd7	h1	59 Qe5	Qd7
27 Qd8	h1	60 Qe5	Qd7
28 Qd9	h1	61 Qe5	Qd7
29 Qd0	h1	62 Qe5	Qd7
30 Qd1	h1	63 Qe5	Qd7
31 Qd2	h1	64 Qe5	Qd7
32 Qd3	h1	65 Qe5	Qd7
33 Qd4	h1	66 Qe5	Qd7

Game 24: The final position.



Game 24: The final position.

UDR chief in call to Catholics

By John Cooney

The commander of the Ulster Defence Regiment yesterday appealed to Roman Catholics to trust and join the force which he said would discharge any of its members who were found to have links with "loyalist" paramilitary organizations.

Brigadier Michael Bray said membership of the Ulster Defence Association, a loyalist paramilitary group, "is incompatible with service in the UDR".

Brigadier Bray was speaking on Irish Radio and his interview highlights the effort which the regiment is making to win the confidence of the minority nationalist community.

A code of conduct being drafted will emphasize its role as an impartial peace keeping force.

Brigadier Bray regretted that the Roman Catholic composition of the regiment had dropped from 18 per cent to 4 per cent since its formation in 1971.

Merit pay rises gain acceptance

By Roland Radd

The replacement of inflation-proof salaries with payments for individual performance has been a prominent feature of industrial relations over the past year, a report by the independent Industrial Relations Services says.

Payment for excellence has become particularly prevalent in the financial sector, where the combination of labour intensity and deregulation has produced a more competitive and challenging environment.

In a special case study of the Alliance and Leicester, Britain's sixth largest building society, the report identifies a new review procedure, including an element of self-appraisal, as the key to successful implementation of performance-related pay.

To introduce the new pay structure, management took two steps:

First, it rationalized different job descriptions, reducing 50 job titles to five, and introduced a 10-grade structure encompassing all staff.

Second, representative staff

bodies had to be convinced that rewards for excellence and the corresponding withholding of financial rewards for under-achievement would be fair.

Staff were told that no employees would be denied an increase without first being told that performance was unsatisfactory and being offered guidelines on how to improve. If they remained unconvinced, workers would have the right to appeal.

No more than 100 of the 4,000 workforce were excluded from the 1987 pay increase, and 95 per cent benefited.

Staff were "encouraged and assisted to monitor, appraise and develop their own performance". Workers were told that the annual pay increase interview would be preceded by the completion of self-appraisal forms.

Industrial Relations Review and Report 406 (Industrial Relations Services, 18-20 Highbury Place, London N5 1QP, by subscription).

Record flight to Falklands

The fastest non-stop flight from Britain to the Falklands was completed late on Saturday night, when a VC10 aircraft touched down at the Mount Pleasant airfield after 15 hours, 45 minutes and 40 seconds.

The military aircraft took off from Brize Norton in Oxfordshire with two six-man crews on board and was twice refuelled in mid-air during the 8,000-mile journey. Two Phantom jets met the flight on its final approach.

The VC10's arrival was particularly welcome because it carried 3,000 lb of Christmas mail.

A military spokesman at Mount Pleasant said the aircraft had been on a training flight to test the deployment of VC10s to the Falklands.

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Can anything you've read above compete with the wit, sagacity and unexpected fun to be found in the end-of-year double issue of The Economist?

The Economist

Available from Wednesday 23rd December, £2.

Tories seek backing for abolition of regional NHS tier

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Conservative MPs are trying to get the support of district health authorities in a move to abolish the regional health authority tier of the National Health Service.

The Government is also continuing its attack on the medical profession by drawing up proposals to put consultants on fixed-term contracts and to restrict doctors to either health service or private practice.

That scheme, which will need primary legislation and has been vigorously attacked by the British Medical Association, will be discussed, together with long-term funding proposals for the health service, with the presidents of the Royal Medical Colleges at a meeting with Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, in the new year.

The 14 regional health authorities in England, which oversee 191 district health authorities, saw their role reduced when the National Health Service Management Board was set up in 1984.

Now Downing Street is encouraging Tory MPs to discuss with local health managers the feasibility of removing regional managers and their teams of officers and support staff, and of selling off regional accommodation as another cost efficiency exercise.

The move is likely to get support from the districts who would be given more autonomy and therefore greater powers if they reported managerially directly to the NHS Management Board.

Although the Department of Health yesterday denied that another restructuring of health service management

was on the cards, NHS sources yesterday revealed that a small group of Department of Health and Social Security Civil Servants and health service managers had been set up to discuss the future of regions.

It also emerged yesterday that a separate policy group within the DHSS had consulted regional and general managers on proposals to introduce fixed term contracts for consultants and a scheme to make doctors opt to work exclusively either for the health service or for the private sector.

The proposals, which have the support of at least some health ministers and could be presented as a Bill in the next parliamentary session, also suggest that districts rather than regions should hold consultants' contracts.

Districts argue that if regions are abolished there would have to be some regional representatives to organize services that are provided on a region-wide basis, such as radio therapy and neurological services.

Regional general managers have been consulted on proposals to tighten up consultants' contracts to ensure that doctors do not abuse their health service commitments. Under present contracts doctors can either opt to work full-time for the NHS or to work for one eleventh of their time in the private sector.

The new proposals drawn up by a DHSS policy group reporting directly to Mr Michael Partridge, second permanent secretary responsible for health, would mean the doctors would be given extra

money if they chose to work only for the health service.

Their salaries of between £25,000 to £30,000 (without the addition of merit money) would be boosted to about £50,000. The proposals also involve changing consultants' life-long contracts on to a fixed five-year contract.

The Government is set to extend the privatization of NHS ancillary services to break the deadlock in the dispute over the funding of the National Health Service, according to *Impulse*, published by the right-wing pressure group, Pulse, the Public and Local Service Efficiency Campaign (Roland Rudd writes).

It reports that as the first round of competitive tendering for health service ancillary services draws to a close, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, is planning to introduce competition to new areas, as well as promoting a second round of tendering in the services of cleaning, catering and laundry.

Impulse says new candidates for privatization include services such as portering, pharmacy, pathology and non-emergency ambulance services.

A senior doctor who has been suspended from duty for speaking to the press about cuts in family planning services will face disciplinary action within the next few weeks. Dr Gillian Cardy, a medical officer in Bath's Health Authority, was suspended after telling a newspaper that a 30 per cent cut in family planning services would lead to unwanted pregnancies.

Skiing to a roof-top European record



Mr Norman Clark, aged 25 and from Glasgow, on his way yesterday to breaking the European car-top skiing record, in which he reached a speed of 141.5mph.

He was strapped to the roof of a turbo-charged BMW 745i car built by AVA Turbo Systems, of Clydebank, and driven by his brother, Alan. Car-top skiing began as a method of practising for downhill speed skiing, and the record was held by another two brothers, Graham and Stuart Wilkie from Guildford, with 134mph. Mr Clark's record was at RAF Machrihanish, near Campbeltown, Argyll.

Yesterday's event will raise about £3,000 for Back Up, a charity for the spinally injured.

(Photograph: Tom Kidd)

Video watch on cash card tills

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Increasing vandalism of cash machines has led the Halifax, Britain's largest building society, to offer cash rewards and install video surveillance.

The society will offer rewards to anyone who helps to identify vandals who are prosecuted.

The more vulnerable machines are usually in inner city areas, the society says. Vandals gum up machines with "superglue", attack them with crowbars and set them alight with petrol. The machines cost £25,000 each.

Crimestoppers, page 5

Portfolio Gold — £8,000 prize is no joke

Mr Paul Levitch, aged 41, has won the weekly £8,000 Portfolio Gold prize.

"It is quite funny really; my wife, Susan, always makes a joke about me not winning and keeps saying to me: 'What's the point?'"

Mr Levitch, manager of sales and the repair of steam turbines for a large American electronics company, added: "I have the answer now and I won't forget it in a hurry. It was a great surprise."

The win means that the family, of Kennel Ride, Ascot, Berkshire, will be able to book their summer holiday in

Greece, buy some extra Christmas presents and invest the remainder of the winnings to help to pay for his daughter at university.

The winner of the £4,000 daily prize is Mr Ian Smith, a computer specialist, aged 27, of Piquet Road, Anerley, south-east London.

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Aids treatment

First mobile unit launched

The first British mobile Aids team will start work this week, operating from Newcastle upon Tyne. The team will treat patients in their own homes, supporting families of victims and helping to break down the prejudice that makes carriers outcasts in their own communities.

The Northern Regional Health Authority unit will include a psychologist, a nurse, social worker and office manager. It will cover the Northumbria, Durham, Cumbria, Tyne and Wear, and Teesside areas.

It is a pioneering scheme, set up with £88,000 provided by the Government, and will be closely watched by other authorities.

Dr George Forster, a spokesman for the authority, said yesterday that the unit had several roles. It would provide professional support for relatives and sufferers so they could spend as much time as possible at home before going into hospital.

The team would also support doctors and other workers already treating Aids sufferers, and collect data on the disease and methods of caring for patients.

"Aids sufferers tend to be thought of as outcasts in the community. They like to keep themselves to themselves. There are cases where they lose their jobs, or their children are ostracized at school. They need a lot of emotional

support, which we hope to give", Dr Forster said.

"Current predictions are that the disease will spread, and the centre will have to expand to cope with that".

The region has had 21 deaths from Aids. At the moment, 31 cases are being treated.

Paul and Linda McCartney, Shirley Bassey, Boy George and Frank Bruno are among the celebrities who have given items for sale at a charity auction today.

The auction, at Hamilton's Gallery, Mayfair, London, has been organized by Mr Richard Branson, who hopes it will raise up to £100,000 for Aids telephone helplines, education and support projects.

Infection halted in laboratory tests

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Genetic engineers have made a breakthrough that opens the way to a new treatment to stop the spread of the Aids virus.

It could be tried in humans within a year.

The scientists have used a naturally occurring molecule, CD4, to provide a "biological sponge" that absorbs the virus.

The idea is to develop a drug on the same principle that latches on to the infectious organism, stopping its spread.

In experiments, the Aids virus was added to an equal mixture of the sponge molecule and the cells that become infected in the body.

Repeatedly, the CD4 protein molecule prevented more

than 99 per cent of the cells from being infected.

The discovery by two teams of scientists led by Dr Jerome Groopman, of the New England Deaconess Hospital, in Boston, and Dr Daniel Capon, of Genentech laboratories, in San Francisco, is reported in *Science*, the publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Their breakthrough comes with the genetic manipulation of a micro-organism to synthesize the CD4 molecule.

When a CD4 preparation is given to people infected with the Aids virus, it should act as a decoy, absorbing the virus and halting the spread to new cells.

The scientists turn a micro-organism into a biological factory that generates the CD4 by obtaining the gene which controls the production of CD4.

The CD4 protein is one of the cell molecules first attacked by the virus.

A suggestion that Western governments should jointly offer a prize of £20,000 million for a cure which would successfully treat 90 per cent of people with Aids is put forward today by Dr David Horrobin, chief executive of EKF Ltd, in an article in the latest issue of *Economic Affairs*, published by the Institute of Economic Affairs.

Moore works will pay for death tax

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

A group of eight Henry Moore drawings from the estate of Lord Clark has been accepted by the Government in lieu of tax, the Department of the Environment has confirmed.

The works, valued at £450,000, will go to the British Museum.

But their owner, Mr Alan Clark, the Minister for Trade who is Lord Clark's son, has complained bitterly about the delay of more than 14 months it has taken to process the deal.

"The whole business has been a misery", Mr Clark said last week, while still unaware of the outcome.

"It would have been much easier if I had sold them three years ago on the open market. I would have had the cash ages ago, and paid the tax."

Mr Clark first approached the Office of Arts and Libraries with the drawings well over a year ago, on the understanding that the matter would be dealt with speedily.

Tinsel and TV usurp the scene

Tinsel, turkey, television and toys remain the most important elements of the family Christmas, a survey discloses today.

The report by the Family Policy Studies Centre shows that Britons will celebrate by decorating five million spruce trees and eating 10 million turkeys. Three out of five considered the family Christmas dinner the best part of the season.

For the rest of the holiday, most people will sit in front of the television. During last year's Christmas week, Britons watched an average 36 hours and 12 minutes each.

Each child on average will receive between £70 and £80 of gifts.

Half those questioned admitted to family arguments.

Stores are preparing for a surge of shopping in the last few days before Christmas. The John Lewis Partnership, with 21 stores in Britain, says sales are up by 8.7 per cent. Boots reports booming sales of cosmetics and perfumes and Harrods has sold 20,000 teddy bears.

Leading article, page 11

For some people, a winter heating bill can be a real problem



We want to help

Gas is far and away the most popular fuel for home heating — not surprisingly, perhaps, since in the vast majority of cases it's also the cheapest. Only last summer we cut gas prices by an average of 4.5 per cent.

However, heating is an important item of expense in most homes — and a small proportion of our customers have real difficulty in meeting their gas bills. Unfortunately, some of these customers never contact us about their difficulties, nor indeed respond to our many efforts (typically seven in all) to contact them — with the result that they eventually lose their gas supply.

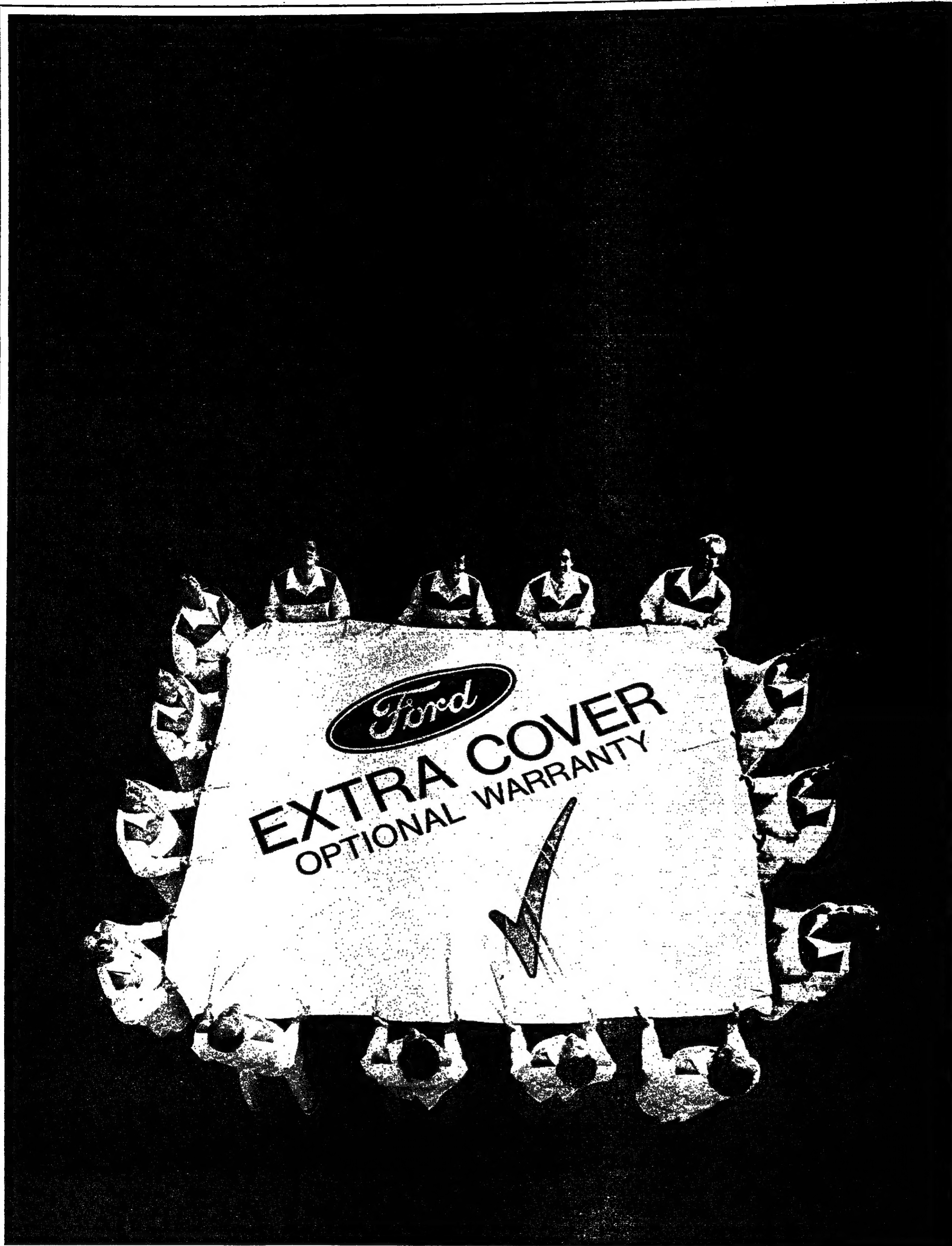
Of course, the overwhelming majority of our 15 million domestic customers do pay their bills. Only a tiny proportion are cut off. But the pity is that, in many of these cases, disconnection could have been avoided. If customers with difficulties tell

us they have a problem, we make every effort to come to an arrangement that lets them pay off what they owe at a rate they can afford — and keep their gas supply.

British Gas has not changed its policy on paying for gas since privatisation. We comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Code of Practice drawn up in conjunction with the electricity industry. Where appropriate, we work closely with the social services — and we pay special attention to the needs of the elderly and disabled. As a commercial concern, British Gas doesn't want to lose any of its customers, but gas does have to be paid for — in everyone's interests.

Anyone having difficulty paying their gas bill should contact British Gas. We want to help in cases of genuine hardship — and we often can.

British Gas



Reassuring isn't it?

When you buy a new Ford you naturally get a 12 month Unlimited Mileage Assurance.

But, for even more peace of mind, many people like to extend their cover with one of Ford's optional warranties.

They offer you a choice of two: Extra Cover and Extra Cover Plus.

And you can order them for two or three year periods, with various mileage limits to suit your needs.

Then, if a covered part should ever fail, Ford is

there to break your fall because labour and material charges will be taken care of.

You'll also be covered against towing charges to the nearest Ford dealer.

And, if necessary, there are generous allowances for car hire or hotel accommodation.

Extra Cover Plus provides even more security. You get most of the benefits of associate membership of the RAC including the round the clock RAC Rescue, Recovery and At Home services.

You'll also get a window etching kit to deter would-be car thieves.

And, should your car be stolen in spite of this, you can ask your dealer to put it on Ford's Stolen Vehicle Register.

That could give you a greater chance of getting it back again, quickly.

So when you buy a new Ford, don't forget, ask your dealer for Extra Cover.

It's the best safety net there is.



200 drivers escape courts by choosing police retraining

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

More than 200 drivers in Nottingham have escaped prosecution for careless driving by agreeing to take an eight-hour police driving course. Most of the offenders caused a minor accident when turning right at a road junction.

Nottingham police would like driver retraining to be part of the penalty set by courts for traffic offences.

Experts from the North review on road traffic law, which will be presented to ministers in January, have observed the experimental Nottingham scheme so that they can make recommendations on how Britain should

tackle driver retraining in the 1990s.

Members of the review team, headed by Dr Peter North, a principal of Jesus College, Oxford, have visited the United States and Germany where retraining schemes are used extensively.

Dr North said yesterday that 20 retraining courses are being run for those drivers considered to be incompetent, irresponsible or to have a drink problem. However Nottingham's "driver rectification" course is unusual because offenders attend as an alternative to prosecution.

Normally retraining is part

of a court order and the motorist would still receive the normal licence penalty points and perhaps a reduced fine.

Supt Roger Storey, head of Nottingham's traffic division, said that prosecution does nothing to make the offender a better driver.

When a sound prosecution case for careless driving can be made against a driver involved in a non-fatal accident and there is a clearly identifiable driving fault, then the driver is offered the chance to attend the Nottingham course. So far 160 men and 66 women of all ages have attended the courses.

The scheme's flaw is that offenders who have no intention of improving their driving take the course as a way of evading prosecution. Insp Michael Dobbs, head of the Nottingham police driving school, said that most wanted to learn from the course, although he admitted it was open to abuse.

The one-day course involves lectures and tuition by police officers. Insp Dobbs said that some young drivers learnt quickly and reached a higher standard than some police drivers.

If the scheme was adopted on a national basis, driving schools could apply to run retraining courses for the police.

British car sales set for 2m record

Sales of new cars in Britain are expected to pass two million on Wednesday for the first time. It marks a sharp retreat in the growing market share taken by foreign imports.

The buoyant economy has helped new car sales to rise 50 per cent above the registrations for 1977. Imports have been cut as both Ford and Vauxhall increased production from their British car plants to record levels.

Ford will sell close to 600,000 cars in 1987 with more than 400,000 built in Britain, against 317,000 two

years ago. Vauxhall sales have slipped this year but its Luton and Ellesmere Port factories will still produce almost 190,000 cars, compared with 112,000 in 1982.

British car production will receive a further boost next year when Nissan's Sunderland models finally achieve British status and exports of the Bluebird model to the Continent begin in October.

Rover Group will achieve only a modest improvement on 1986 production but it will return to an operating profit.

Motorway repairs

Lane closures ahead on M1

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Repairs to southern sections of the M1 start in the new year.

Between next month and March there will be lane closures on both carriageways between junctions 12 and 13, north of Toddington, and between June and August a contraflow will operate on the northbound carriageway.

There will be works between junctions 4 and 5, north of Elstree, from March to November.

Figures given in Parliament by Mr Peter Bottomley, minister responsible for roads and traffic, show that spending on maintenance work on the M1, at constant prices, rose from almost £11 million in 1979-80 to about £30 million a year between 1982-1985, and then fell to £20 million in 1985-86.

Major roadworks will start Monday:

London and the South-east

M4 London: occasional daytime lane closures and overnight carriageway closures.

M11 Essex: southbound lane closures between jns 5 and 4 (Loughton/North Circular Road). Long delays at morning peak.

M11 Essex: off-peak lane closures and speed restrictions at jn 8 (Stansted airport).

North

M62 West Yorkshire: contraflow between jns 25 and 26 (A644 Brighouse/M606 Bradford).

M63 Greater Manchester: restrictions for widening of Barton Bridge. Serious peak hour congestion. Construction

of M63 flyover at Portwood roundabout, Stockport. Reduced to two lanes.

Midlands

M1 Leicestershire: contraflow between jns 24 and 25 (A6 airport/Nottingham).

M5 Hereford/Worcester: lane closures in both directions, jns 5-6 (Bromsgrove/Worcester north). Northbound entry slip at jn 6 closed. Overnight carriageway closures with diversions.

M5 West Midlands: lane closures jns 1-2 (West Bromwich/Birmingham west). Southbound entry slip at jn 1 and northbound entry slip at jn 2 closed.

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Fair hand for a tough job in Pennines



The mysteries of dry stone walling are no longer a male preserve. Miss Patricia Patten, aged 23, shown working on a damaged section of wall high in the Yorkshire Pennines, has been awarded a master craftsman certificate by the Dry Stone Walling Association. Miss Patten, from

Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, began her career three years ago as a trainee on a government-sponsored community project for the unemployed. Now she is taking her vocation a stage further by training for a teaching certificate. She has already been approached to teach in Portugal

and the United States, both countries where the craft of dry stone walling has almost died out. What her future pupils will make of being shown their craft by a tousle-haired young woman instead of a tweeded daleman is uncertain, but Miss Patten expects no soft treatment. She remembers the

words of one of her instructors on a particularly freezing Yorkshire winter's day. "This will sort the men from the boys", he said. "I don't know about the men and the boys but I was the last one to leave the site", she recalled.

(Photograph: Barry Greenwood)

MP takes up bride sales case

A Birmingham man who allegedly sold two of his daughters as brides to Yemeni men may face action over his right to remain in Britain.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Selly Oak, has called for Mr Mathias Muhesen to be deported.

"What he did was an illegal act and if there is any way of chucking him out, then we ought to do it", Mr Beaumont-Dark said.

The girls, Zana and Nadia Muhesen, were allegedly tricked by their Yemen-born father into visiting North Yemen five years ago, believing it was a holiday.

Only after their arrival did the sisters discover they were to be married to local men, allegedly at a price of £1,300 each.

The girls, now aged 20 and 22, were raised in Birmingham. Both have had children since their marriages. They had to work in the fields around Moksba, mountainous bandit territory, until their labour pains began.

Villagers have told the girls that they can never return to Birmingham because under tribal law they must have their husbands' consent. That is unlikely to be granted.

Reforms in the courts' handling of family and child abuse cases, with a family court, and more hearings in open court are proposed by Sir John Arnold, President of the High Court family division, today. Sir John, who sits today for the last time before his retirement, would also like tighter investigative procedures in the wake of the Cleveland child abuse inquiry. He added that live video links, which the Government is proposing should be used for taking evidence in child abuse criminal proceedings, should be well.

His proposals come at a critical time for family law. A government decision is still awaited on a family court and a wholesale overhaul of child care law is also expected.

Sir John believes that any holding back of a reform such as a unified family court on money grounds can be done only if well justified. He said: "There is not such inevitability of a substantial increase in public expenditure through the introduction of a family court as to justify its delay on any fiscal ground."

Sir John, who will be succeeded by Lord Justice Stephen Brown, has been in the

Family court reform

Retiring judge's plea for openness

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

forefront of efforts to promote a family court in recent years, and may well - although he does not admit to it - harbour regrets at not seeing the reform into existence.

He emphasized that a family court would not be the complete formula for improving the way courts tackle family disputes, but it would make more efficient the administration of family law.

Sir John said that the family work of the courts had changed considerably in his eight years as the most senior family court judge.

He added: "The contested divorce is now almost non-existent; the bulk of the work

now concerns children in the context of local authority wardship, and to a lesser extent the redistribution of finance after the breakdown of marriage."

The High Court family division has come in for attack in recent years for the number of hearings held in private.

Sir John maintained that it was wrong for hearings to be in chambers just because they take place in the Queen's Bench division while the same application would be heard in open court in the Chancery division.

It was "remarkable" that a wardship case would be heard initially in chambers but, if it went to the Court of Appeal, would have to be heard in open court, he said. The test should be whether justice would be better served by a chambers hearing, and "in the vast majority of child cases" that would be the case.

However, in cases of sorting out property and capital and income on divorce "an automatic embargo on hearing of property and income cases in open court does go too far", he added.

On Cleveland, Sir John said that the lesson to be learnt was "the desirability of establish-

ing some investigative norms" to be applied in child abuse cases. There needed to be some sort of safeguard built into the procedure for removing a child from its home, which would give the court a more active role in exercising its powers. It was not good enough for the social worker to put the case for the child's removal and for the magistrate simply to agree.

Sir John said that he was in favour of live video links in child abuse cases, but not video-recorded interviews. Those would be done by people not trained in the rules of evidence.

He saw no objection in principle to merging the jurisdictions of the High Court and county court, the proposal from the Lord Chancellor's officials which is widely opposed by judges and the Bar. Sir John said that such an arrangement could work perfectly well provided there was an efficient machine to distribute cases to their right level, and "something identifiable as a High Court tier".

Sir John, who is retiring to live in Tuscany, will watch developments from a distance. Some of the reforms he would like to see are only part-way down the road.



Sir John Arnold: hoping to see change go further.

Scottish airline relaunch attempt

Mr Randolph Fields, the founder of the collapsed Scottish airline, Highland Express, said yesterday that a new transatlantic carrier could be flying in the new year.

A new company, as yet unnamed, will be formed to take over the chairmanship of Sir Ian MacGregor, the former Coal Board chief. Agreements with creditors will be sought later in the week.

It is hoped that operations on the North Atlantic route could begin again in March, with charter flights running in January and February.

The proposal was announced at Prestwick airport, the airline's base, on Saturday after a meeting between Mr Fields, Mr MacGregor and Mr

Greg Copley, an Australian businessman, who agreed last week to form part of a rescue consortium.

An agreement with Citicorp, the New York-based company which owns and leases Highland Express's only aircraft, a Boeing 747, will be crucial to their success.

Highland Express also owes nearly £2 million to Sabena, the company which carried out maintenance work on the aircraft, the former British Airways Authority, which is owed landing charges, BP, which supplied fuel, the Inland Revenue, which is owed arrears in PAYE payments, and various other companies.

The full extent of the debt will be made known at a

creditors' meeting in London today. A spokesman for Touche Ross, the liquidators called in by the airline 10 days ago, said it was in the interests of the creditors that the consortium succeeded.

Nearly 1,800 passengers have paid for, and still hold, Highland Express tickets. So far, no other airline has agreed to accept the tickets. If a rescue attempt is successful, however, the new company hopes to honour them.

Mr Fields said that £3 million of the £5 million needed to get the rescue package off the ground had been secured. Staff had also agreed to a period of working on reduced wages.

Water boards defend supplies

The public water supply is safe and cheap, the Water Authorities Association says today in reply to criticism by the European Economic Commission and conservation groups about pollution and possible cancer risks in the water treatment processes.

The association's report, *Drinking Water Quality: The Facts*, has, however, been condemned by conservationist groups as an attempt to deflect criticism in the run up to privatization.

It says pollution is kept at "levels that are safe on the basis of independent medical advice to the Government". Lead levels had been "greatly diminished by a 10-year period of water treatment".

The water supply is so safe, the report says, that buying bottled water on health grounds is an expensive waste of money: it is about 1,000 times more costly than tap water.

People had been unnecessarily alarmed by reports of pollution, leading to "cowboy firms" selling expensive water filters which can pollute the water they are supposed to clean.

Mr Andrew Lees, of the Friends of the Earth organization, said that dubious science in the report showed that water experts are being forced to put the best interpretation on the facts for political reasons.

Friends of the Earth made a formal complaint to the European Economic Commission earlier this year that the British Government was interpreting new EEC rules on allowable nitrate content of drinking water to allow higher limits.

The report concedes that this interpretation was wrong, but Mr Lees said that no action has been taken to correct excessive nitrate levels in some water supplies. Further complaints will be made to the commission next year, he added.

A survey by the Consumers Association in 1985 showed that a quarter of the population was drinking substandard water.

Scrooge hotel bosses fail to pass on tips

Hotel and restaurant employers who fail to pass on to their staff the service charge paid by customers have been called Scrooges by the general workers' union, GMB.

Mr Michael Fisher, the union's national officer, has urged diners to find out to whom their tips go this Christmas. "Often these tips disappear into the employers' coffers", he said.

Many hotels and restaurants added a service charge to the bill but there was no obligation for employers to pass that on to their staff, he said.

"Bosses who do not are present-day Scrooges. All too often tips go to fatten up company profits or lead to low rates of pay from employers, who claim staff can make it up in tips."

The minimum wage for hotel and catering workers was £2 an hour except for those under 21 who have no protection, he said.

TV cover for police reward scheme

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard is putting finishing touches to the launch next month of its Crime Stoppers scheme offering rewards for anonymous information leading to arrests for certain crimes of violence.

The scheme, funded with £500,000 raised by a group of businessmen under a charity called the Community Action Trust, begins on January 12.

Crime Stoppers, modelled on a successful American system, will offer rewards of up to £200 on crimes selected and publicized each week or for information on other offences.

In the US Crime Stoppers schemes have resulted in the recovery of assets worth about £400 million, solved 92,000 cases and led to 21,000 convictions. A small-scale scheme has been run for several years by Norfolk police.

The London scheme is more ambitious and hopes to reach three potential types of

An Industry Watch security system modelled on Neighborhood Watch has been successfully introduced at Knowsley Industrial Park in Kirkby, Merseyside, one of western Europe's largest industrial estates.

Eighteen months ago theft and vandalism was so rife that some of the site's 350 companies were unable to obtain insurance cover.

Knowsley Industries Association co-operated with police

informants. Those are people who have lost faith in the legal system and would not normally talk to the police; people involved in the crime themselves, and families or friends of criminals.

Each week the police will choose a "target" crime of violence which may be a mugging, a rape, a murder or a violent attack. Those are the types of crime which rarely attract the sort of rewards available for such crimes

and the local council and set up a pilot Industry Watch scheme to keep a protective eye on adjoining premises, reporting anything suspicious to police and installing floodlights and fences.

In the nine months before the scheme was introduced there were 282 burglaries or thefts in the area. In the past nine months there has been a 40 per cent reduction in those crimes and the scheme is to spread to the whole estate.

The crime will be chosen from cases sent by detectives from all over London to a special team headed by Commander Neil Dickens, head of crime in the territorial operations department at the Yard.

Details of the crime and an appeal for help will be broadcast in a series of 50 second "spots" during commercial breaks once a day at different times on local television and radio. Local and evening

newspapers in London will also publicize the case.

Mr Dickens's team of half a dozen detectives will man freefone telephone lines to take calls. The detectives are expected to sift through the information and draw out as much as possible from the source, also watching for hoaxes.

The information would be used as the basis for further investigation and not as the only basis of an arrest. It would need to be corroborated.

Informants who want to be anonymous will be given a special code and if their information leads to arrests or charges they can apply for the reward. Their claim will be considered by a management committee drawn from the charity which will arrange secure payment.

In the US only about 40 per cent of rewards are claimed and the small size of the reward is said to have discouraged corruption.

Four years old.
Seriously underweight
for her age.
Scavenging for food
where she can find it.
And she's English.



With parents who refused to acknowledge that she even existed this child was being slowly and deliberately starved. Here in England.

Fortunately we found her in time. Yet without your donations we'd have been powerless to help.

£20.66 can begin to protect a child from abuse. And that's the sum we're asking for now.

If you can't afford quite that much, all donations are gratefully received.

I want to help protect a child and enclose my cheque or postal order:

£20.66 £41.32 £61.98

Access and Visa card holders may debit their accounts. No.

Expiry date: BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Please send your donation to:
The NSPCC, FREEPOST,
London EC4A 3DFQ.

NSPCC

To protect the child's identity the letter has been changed.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Iraq says Tehran offensive halted

Baghdad (Reuters) — Iraq said yesterday it had thrown back a big Iranian offensive on the south-central war front. A military communiqué said the offensive, spearheaded by two brigades, was launched on Saturday night in the Zubaidat marshland area, about 125 miles north-east of Basra and was repulsed after about 12 hours of fighting. It said the Iraqis suffered heavy losses.

But Iran yesterday claimed its forces mauled four Iraqi battalions, inflicting hundreds of casualties, in an overnight "blitz" on the south-central war front. An Iranian military source, quoted by the Iranian news agency Irna, denied the Baghdad statement that the attack was a major offensive.

Korea jet exploded Officer released

Seoul — South Korean investigators have confirmed that a mid-air explosion was responsible for the loss of a Korean Air jet with 115 people on board last month. Debris recovered from the sea off Burma, including a life raft and emergency medical supplies, showed clear signs of severe blast damage (Gavin Bell writes).

A prosecutor said that, contrary to earlier reports, the woman suspect detained in Bahrain after she left the aircraft at Abu Dhabi does not speak Korean and is a national of a foreign country, possibly Japan or China.

Athens — A Greek policeman was freed at the weekend after appealing against a 13-month manslaughter sentence for the accidental shooting of Katherine Bull, aged 22, of Cardiff, in 1985 (A Correspondent writes).

A plainclothes officer, Mr. Nicholas Stathopoulos, said that his pistol went off while he was grappling with her boy friend, Mr. Dennis Taylor, an American geophysicist. The incident occurred in the seaside suburb of Glyfada on August 15, 1985, after the officer stopped the couple for what he said was an identity check.

Thai raids attacked

Bangkok (AP) — Laos has lodged a protest at the United Nations about Thai bombing and artillery assaults last week on hills in Sayaboury Province, an area which is the subject of a territorial dispute. The incident appeared to be the worst fighting between the countries in three years.

The Thai Army confirmed the assaults, but said that it was trying to retake territory seized by intruding Laotian forces. In the letter of protest to Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, Laos said that the assaults on "Hill 1428" and other hills west of Botene district — which involved 550 lb bombs and 105mm and 155mm artillery — demonstrated that Thailand wished to settle the conflict by force.

Bulgarian Courting link fades critics

Rome — The supposed Bulgarian connection in the assassination attempt on the Pope has finally faded into obscurity (A Correspondent writes).

A Rome Appeal Court on Saturday confirmed verdicts of "not guilty through lack of evidence" — the same verdicts at the end of the first trial on March 29 last year — for three Bulgarians and three Turks accused of organizing the 1981 shooting of the Pope by the Turk, Mehmet Ali Agca. Under Italian law, this verdict allows for a margin of doubt.

Sri Lanka merger

Delhi (Reuters) — Sri Lanka will soon issue an order merging its Northern and Eastern provinces to end the strife between Tamils and the Colombo Government, All-India Radio reported yesterday. The radio quoted an Indian government spokesman in Madras as saying the merger, for which he gave no exact date, had been urged on Sri Lanka by India. Combining the Tamil-majority north with the Eastern province, where the Tamil population is roughly matched by the Sinhalese and Muslim communities, was one of the main demands of the Tamil militants.

Politics based on race returns to Deep South

From Michael Binyon Birmingham, Alabama

These are difficult times in the Deep South. Poverty, rural backwardness and a stunted legacy from the George Wallace era have left the heart of Dixie beating with only a faint pulse.

But Alabama, so long a foregone political conclusion, is playing a key role in the 1988 presidential campaign. And for at least two candidates this state and those around it will decide whether the South's Super Tuesday leads to the nomination or a dead end.

Race has always been the bone of Southern politics. The segregationist stranglehold has long been broken: the famous refusal of Rosa Parks to move to the "back of the bus" occurred 32 years ago, and Governor Wallace's stand in the Montgomery schoolhouse door is now in the newsprint archives.

But the old image has inflicted lasting damage on Alabama, sending away new investment, inhibiting a vitally needed infusion of new industry. Alabamians are paying now for opportunities missed a

generation ago and the state, poor and ill-educated, where rural infant mortality rates equal those of Latin America, faces a hard, bleak future.

Ironically, race has returned as a dominant factor in the 1988 election campaign — not in the old, bad way, not even with the violence that now dominates Chicago and inner-city politics in the North.

But the black vote is crucial to the campaign of the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the charismatic Southern preacher and one-time assistant to Martin Luther King. Blacks account for a quarter of Alabama's electorate. More are likely to vote than ever before, almost all for Mr. Jackson.

Two results follow: virtually no whites will support Mr. Jackson on March 8, when the 14 Southern and border states hold their unprecedented regional primary; and virtually no other Democrat will pick up any black votes.

Unlike the situation in Iowa, where he hopes to win a sizeable chunk of the white farmers' votes, Mr. Jackson will have to rely in the South on a bloc vote based on race. But with disgruntled whites defecting to the Republicans, the bloc vote

may be enough to make him the Democratic victor.

Four years ago the situation was less polarized. Mr. Jackson had not built up his organization, and Mr. Walter Mondale, the leading Democratic candidate, had a long civil rights record. Many black community leaders, including Dr. Joe Reed, assistant head of the state's teachers union, believed support for Mr. Jackson would weaken black influence on the man who was clearly going to get the nomination. "Alone in the South, Alabama's blacks did not endorse him."

That has now changed. But Dr. Reed is under no illusions. Mr. Jackson, he predicted, even if he carried the South, would not win the eventual Democratic nomination, "and that is not because he is not qualified." Race still drew a line he could not cross. But this time blacks did not consider Mr. Jackson's candidacy a wasted vote. "Jesse's done a good job in raising issues for others to follow," Dr. Reed said.

He had already made the notion of a black Vice-President possible, raising hopes — admittedly distant — of a black President one day.

But though race is still a factor in the South, it is no longer an issue.

Black demands differ little from those of whites, especially poor whites: jobs, opportunity, better schooling in states with some of the lowest spending and highest dropout rates in America ("Thank God for Mississippi," the Alabama cynics say. "We can always point to one state worse off"). Dr. Reed sees employment as the key to all black advancement, and wants the Democratic nominee to guarantee a job to everyone. In his view, all other issues of concern to blacks — education, housing, crime, welfare — are linked to employment.

For Alabama whites, the state's economic future is also of concern. But this is not the central issue for the only other Democrat with Southern hopes — Senator Albert Gore, the young and telegenic scion of a famous Tennessee political family. For him, Alabama offers a chance to mobilize the conservative Democrat vote — the so-called "yellow dog vote" after the famous dictum that Southerners would sooner vote for a yellow dog than a Republican. The Jackson candidacy

and the perceived liberalism of all the other Democrats have pushed him sharply to the right on defence and foreign policy, issues that matter to a generally conservative and patriotic white South.

For the Republicans, the black vote can be ignored. For them, Bible-belt evangelism rather than race is the complicating factor. Republicans are hoping to build on the first appointment of a Republican governor in 100 years — an upset victory resulting from a split in the Democratic camp — to break the mould and establish themselves at local level. But it will be an uphill task.

For almost all Alabamians the contest in March still seems far away. More passion is expended on local tax reform, or on Alabama's efforts to make up lost ground and join in the prosperity of neighbours such as Georgia and Tennessee.

Widespread apathy still greets national politics, and the two party headquarters fear that the turnout could be as low as 20 per cent. For Mr. Gore and Mr. Jackson, frequent campaign visitors, every vote matters.

Summit role fails to help Bush stem Dole's rise

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Vice-President George Bush is continuing to lose his lead in the battle for the Republican presidential nomination, a new opinion poll published yesterday suggests.

Even his high-profile appearances with Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev during the superpower summit have not stopped the slide.

Senator Robert Dole, the Republican leader of the Senate, now has 35 per cent support among registered Republicans, compared with 44 per cent for Mr. Bush, according to the Washington Post-ABC news poll. The Vice-President's lead in the polls has been cut by half in recent months.

Other Republican contenders are well behind. Mr. Jack Kemp has 6 per cent, Mr. Pat Robertson 4 per cent, General Alexander Haig 4 per cent, and Mr. Pierre du Pont 3 per cent. The poll shows that, in general, voters trust the Democrats over the Republicans by 49 to 39 per cent.

Among the Democratic contenders, Mr. Gary Hart leads the field with 30 per cent support among registered party members, followed by the Rev. Jesse Jackson with 20 per cent. Then comes Governor Michael Dukakis, with 15 per cent, and Senator Paul Simon with 8 per cent. Senator Albert Gore has 5 per cent. Representative Richard Gephardt, and Mr. Bruce Babbitt have 2 per cent apiece.

Because of Mr. Hart's re-

entry into the race, some of the weaker Democrats have decided to focus their campaigns on the Iowa caucuses on February 8, the first contest of the 1988 presidential race. A good showing there would boost their chances in the New Hampshire primary eight days later, where Mr. Hart is stronger.

Most political analysts believe that the New Hampshire contest will be essentially between Mr. Hart and Mr. Dukakis, both of whom are well known in the state, although polls in recent days show Mr. Hart running second. Mr. Hart's re-entry into the presidential contest received the approval of 52 per cent of voters in the poll, and the disapproval of 44 per cent.

NEW YORK: An opinion poll by Newsweek magazine suggests that Americans are divided on whether Mr. Hart was wise to rejoin the Democratic presidential race (Reuters reports). But 70 per cent say that his relationship with the model, Miss Donna Rice, would be an important factor in deciding to vote for him.

Forty-nine per cent of the 707 Americans surveyed on Thursday and Friday thought Mr. Hart's comeback, after his relationship with a model led to him pulling out, was courageous, while 41 per cent considered it unwise, the poll showed. If a presidential election were held now, 52 per cent said they would vote for Mr. Bush, while 37 per cent said they would back Mr. Hart.



University students preparing petrol bombs in Kwangju, South Korea, yesterday as protests continued against alleged vote-rigging in last week's election. The violence of the protests, however, has provoked widespread public distaste.

Poll unrest fails to slow Seoul reform

From Gavin Bell Seoul

The ruling Democratic Justice Party in South Korea is moving ahead bravely with plans to hold parliamentary elections early next year, despite simmering controversy over its presidential election victory last week.

DJP officials said yesterday that they were scheduling the poll for around February 10, two weeks before Mr. Roh Tae Woo is due to succeed President Chun. They have been encouraged by clear signs that Mr. Kim Young Sam and Mr. Kim Dae Jung, the defeated opposition leaders, have failed to attract popular support for their efforts to have Mr. Roh's election declared invalid.

Violent clashes between student and party militants and riot police last week were viewed with distaste by the majority of opposition sup-

porters. Antipathy against the two Kim's is growing, as they are held largely to blame for their defeat by splitting the opposition vote.

Together, they polled more than 12 million votes, compared with eight million for Mr. Roh, but roughly equal division in their support gave the DJP leader a winning margin of almost two million.

The Korea Herald said in its editorial: "By putting up more than one candidate as a result of factionalism and personal ambition, the opposition camp invited its own defeat. Making further ado about vote-trading allegations will result only in diminishing popular sympathy."

Younger members of the opposition in the National Assembly are demanding that the Kim's be called to account for their conduct. They are soliciting support for a reform

movement, and are likely to create a new party or an alliance to challenge their traditional leaders.

A realignment of opposition

Seoul (AP) — Hundreds of South Korean students hurled firebombs yesterday as they stormed police stations and battled with riot police in the southern city of Kwangju. It was the fourth day of protests against what the demonstrators dubbed "invalid" presidential elections — a reference to widespread allegations of voting frauds and malpractice in last Wednesday's poll. There were also minor skirmishes in Seoul.

forces seems inevitable if they are to mount a serious challenge to the DJP in the parliamentary poll. There is little enthusiasm in South Korea for a divided executive, and some opposition voters may

be tempted to support the ruling party for the sake of stability and strong government. But the message does not yet appear to have reached the two Kim's. Both are refusing steadfastly to participate in negotiations to revise the parliamentary election law, aimed at ensuring fairer representation.

The Reunification Democratic Party of Mr. Kim Young Sam did apologize for failing to field a single candidate — but promptly put the blame on Mr. Kim Dae Jung's Party for Peace and Democracy.

Meanwhile, Mr. Roh is planning sweeping changes in his party ranks to prepare for civilian rule. Up to half of the old-guard loyalists in the Assembly will not be re-nominated for the February elections and more people without military backgrounds are expected to be appointed to party and government posts.

Contra aid breakthrough

Pact averts US budget crisis

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Congress and the White House worked on a tentative agreement yesterday for funding the Nicaraguan Contras and ending a budget stalemate in time to stop the United States Government shutting down today. Technically, the Government ran out of money at the weekend.

Shortly before midnight on Saturday, Mr. Jim Wright, the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, said an agreement in principle had been reached between congressional leaders and White House officials to give \$8.1 million (\$4.4 million) non-military aid to the Contras.

President Reagan had threatened to veto a \$600-million spending Bill now before Congress if it did not contain aid for the rebel army, which is in danger of falling apart for want of food, medicine and clothing. He said that he was ready to cancel his holiday and force Congress to stay in session over Christmas and the New Year until the issue was settled.

He repeated his veto threat

in his weekend radio address, and cited new evidence of a planned military build-up in Nicaragua as proof of the Sandinista Government's preparations for "military dominance of the entire region".

The pending Bill funds most government activities until October. Without it, government operations would have come to a halt today with the exception of defence and law enforcement. Federal



Mr. Jim Wright: Announced the Contra aid compromise.

workers were told last week to be prepared to report for work today and spend the morning closing down operations before going home.

The breakthrough will keep the Contras alive for another month or two. "We have reached agreement in principle. We want to see how it looks on paper," Senator Warren Rudman, a Republican from New Hampshire, said as he and other exhausted Congressmen left Saturday's bargaining session.

The White House team included Mr. James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, Mr. Howard Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, and Lieutenant-General Colin Powell, the National Security Adviser. Technically the Government ran out of money at 12.01 am on Saturday when a stop-gap spending Bill expired, but the impact was not felt because it was a weekend.

The House of Representatives version of the main spending Bill eliminated all aid to the rebels, while the Senate version provided \$9 million in non-military assis-

tance plus \$6 million to transport supplies to the fighters.

The two versions, which were being reconciled when White House and congressional leaders resumed negotiations yesterday afternoon, would implement an agreement between the White House and Congress for tax increases and spending cuts to reduce the budget deficit by \$30 billion in the current fiscal year, which began on October 1, and by \$46 billion next year. The budget deficit is expected to reach \$180 billion in 1988.

Under the tentative accord on Contra funding, the rebels would receive money for the first 12 days of January. Then they would be suspended for one week to see whether peace talks between the Sandinistas and the rebels could bring about a ceasefire.

If, in President Reagan's opinion, the peace talks were not successful, the aid would resume until February 4, when it would take a vote of both Houses of Congress for it to continue for the rest of the month.

MANAGUA: A Sandinista leader claimed at the weekend that opposition parties were banding together to overthrow the Government (AFP reports). Señor Bayardo Arce, allied to the 1973 coup in Chile and said Nicaragua's 14 legal political parties were taking advantage of Managua's recent moves to comply with the Central American peace plan.

The deep divisions among black opponents of South Africa's white-controlled Government were on display at the weekend as five more blacks died in fighting between rival black political factions and a black consciousness movement leader castigated other groups for forming alliances with white liberals.

The police reported that five black males, aged between 18 and 59, were found stabbed to death in different black residential areas round Pietermaritzburg, the capital of Natal province. The wife of one of the men was seriously wounded.

A spokesman for the South African Police said that a mob of blacks also stabbed a black member of the police force in the Pietermaritzburg area. He was in a "very serious" condition in hospital.

A white policeman was injured in a separate clash with black rioters.

More than 200 blacks have died this year, most of them in the past few months, in a savage struggle for control of the black townships around Pietermaritzburg between the United Democratic Front (UDF), an alliance of militant anti-apartheid groups, and the more conservative Inkatha organization.

The strength of Inkatha, led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, derives from the predominantly Zulu population of Natal, while the UDF is a national movement drawing support from all race groups, although mainly from blacks, and is aligned politically with the outlawed African National Congress (ANC).

In the main address to the eighth annual congress of the Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO) in Soweto at the weekend, the Azapo president, Mr. Nkosi Molema, poured scorn on the ANC and the

UDF for seeking the support of white liberals.

Azapo is the direct descendant of the banned Black People's Convention of the late Steve Biko, the founding father of black consciousness, who was bludgeoned to death by interrogators in a police cell in 1977.

It appears to have much less support than the UDF-ANC, but is still a force to be reckoned with.

Black consciousness ideologues argue that blacks must achieve liberation by their own efforts, and that if they look to white liberals for assistance they merely perpetuate their own subservience.

Black and white, they maintain, can live together as equals only in a post-apartheid, socialist South Africa.

Mr. Molema criticized the meeting in Dakar, Senegal, earlier this year between exiled ANC leaders and a group of mainly Afrikaner whites, led by Dr. Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, the former leader of the white parliamentary Opposition.

"All the Dakar conference has done is to sanction and endorse white liberalism, its

rabid opposition to socialist forces notwithstanding," Mr. Molema told the congress delegates.

He is a former professional football player who spent several years in the maximum security prison on Robben Island for sabotage.

Mr. Molema also singled out two white liberal groups for attack: the National Democratic Movement, led by Mr. Wynand Malan, a former member of President Botha's ruling National Party, and the Five Freedoms Forum, a group of white lawyers, academics, journalists and civil rights workers.

"Their role is to secure a place for liberalism in a future state and to agitate for the protection of minority rights," he maintained.

That could only mean the protection of white people's standard of living, lifestyle and property.

"No revolutionary activist who has the interest of the oppressed masses languishing in abject poverty at heart will ever agree with this arrangement," Mr. Molema said.

Service men held: Three white national servicemen



Chief Buthelezi: Power base among the Zulus of Natal.



Steve Biko: His followers a force to be reckoned with.

have been arrested on suspicion of spying, it was disclosed at the weekend.

They were detained only hours before they were due to be discharged from the Army at the end of their two years' compulsory military service.

The three are university graduates who were stationed at the Western Province Command Headquarters in Cape Town Castle, where they reportedly worked in an intelligence section.

Informed sources identified one as Peter Pluddeeman, the son of Professor Ulrich Pluddeeman, the head of the German Department at the University of the Western Cape.

He is a pacifist and was serving in the Army in a non-combatant capacity after refusing to carry firearms or serve with units in black townships.

A police spokesman confirmed the arrests, and said that an investigation was under way into alleged contraventions of the South African Defence Act.

A report in the Johannesburg Sunday Times said the men were believed to have passed on classified information.

According to the paper, Mr. Pluddeeman was summoned by a superior officer a few months ago and asked to explain his presence at a meeting of the End Conscription Campaign, an organization run by young white South Africans opposed to compulsory military service in their country.

Informed sources in Cape Town suggested yesterday that the three national servicemen might have got hold of files relating to South African Army schemes for countering and quelling the anti-conscription campaign.

Nicaragua mediator threatens to quit

From Alan Tomlinson, Miami

Having agreed a 48-hour Christmas truce, the Nicaraguan Government and the Contra rebels were due to resume their mediated ceasefire talks in Santo Domingo today.

But with no prospect in sight of a breakthrough, Cardinal Obando y Bravo, the Nicaraguan Primate, has threatened to resign as intermediary unless both sides show greater flexibility. The point he is likely to insist upon most firmly is that the ruling Sandinistas should drop their refusal to meet the rebels.

The second round of talks

was postponed by the Government a week ago when the Cardinal announced that direct talks on technical arrangements for a truce had been agreed.

The delay allowed the Sandinistas time to assemble a three-man team of non-Nicaraguans to attend the meeting on their behalf, a move that skirts the impasse. The issue has been the cornerstone of the Nicaraguan position since the guerrilla war began seven years ago.

The Government maintains that a lasting peace can only be achieved through a strate-

gic agreement with the United States, which finances the Contras.

This view appeared to be echoed at the weekend by the author of a global peace plan for Central America, of which the Nicaraguan talks are a part. President Arias of Costa Rica, who won this year's Nobel Peace Prize for his initiative, said: "Without taking away from the countries which are involved in the conflict, I think those who should really be holding the dialogue are the superpowers."

He said he could urge Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, the

Soviet leader, and President Castro of Cuba to end their support for guerrilla movements in the region, as he has already done with President Reagan.

MANAGUA: A Sandinista leader claimed at the weekend that opposition parties were banding together to overthrow the Government (AFP reports). Señor Bayardo Arce, allied to the 1973 coup in Chile and said Nicaragua's 14 legal political parties were taking advantage of Managua's recent moves to comply with the Central American peace plan.

Casualty fears discourage Soviet role

Afghan troops in offensive to free city under siege

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Soviet-backed Afghan troops have launched a big military offensive some 100 miles south-east of the capital, Kabul, in an attempt to break the siege of the important provincial city of Khost by around 9,000 Muslim rebels.

First news of the operation, one of the largest launched in Afghanistan this year, was given in dramatic Soviet television film on Saturday night. It showed the troops shelling what Mr Mikhail Leschinsky, Moscow's chief war reporter, described as rebel strongholds and arms supply routes in snow-capped mountains outside the beleaguered city.

The decision to launch the operation shortly before the eighth anniversary of the Soviet invasion on December 27 was seen in diplomatic circles as proof of the continuing effectiveness of the rebels, whose hand has been greatly strengthened by the supply of heat-seeking Stinger missiles from the United States.

President Najibullah said earlier this month that the presence of the missiles had closed Khost airport for daytime use, and that government planes were unable to fly in sufficient food under cover of darkness to feed the city's 40,000 inhabitants.

The Soviet film appeared designed to emphasize that the offensive was being



Afghan Government's need to defend its own revolution. It is a policy of gradual Soviet disengagement, one Kabul-based diplomat said. "But there is not sufficient evidence that the Afghan Army can fight effectively without Soviet support."

Lieutenant-General Shah Nawas, the Afghan Chief of Staff, told Soviet television that the Khost offensive had both military and political objectives. He said it had been launched after efforts to find a peaceful solution to the siege had failed.

The first indication of the impending operation came late last month when Dr Najibullah addressed the Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) in Kabul - which later elected him President - when delegates were asked when an effort would be made to break the siege.

Diplomatic sources said that the rebels - who for much of the nine-year civil war have been able to dominate Khost from the mountain chain which surrounds it - had rejected all attempts at mediation. Because of the proximity of the Pakistan border, they have found the area a good one from which to fight.

The sources noted that normally in winter the pace of the warfare slowed. "This year, the fighting has remained intense," one European envoy said.

Last Friday, Western diplomats in Kabul contacted by telephone from Moscow said that the capital had just undergone one of its worst overnight rocket attacks for 18 months. They also said that regular artillery fire was now to be heard almost every night in and around the city, which has a population of two million.

While in the Soviet television report neither General Nawas nor the reporter made any reference to Soviet involvement, long Soviet col-

umns have been seen heading in the direction of Khost, presumably to supply logistical backing.

Western experts predict that ending the siege will be a long and costly operation and one in which it is feared that, by the nature of the fighting, civilian casualties will be high.

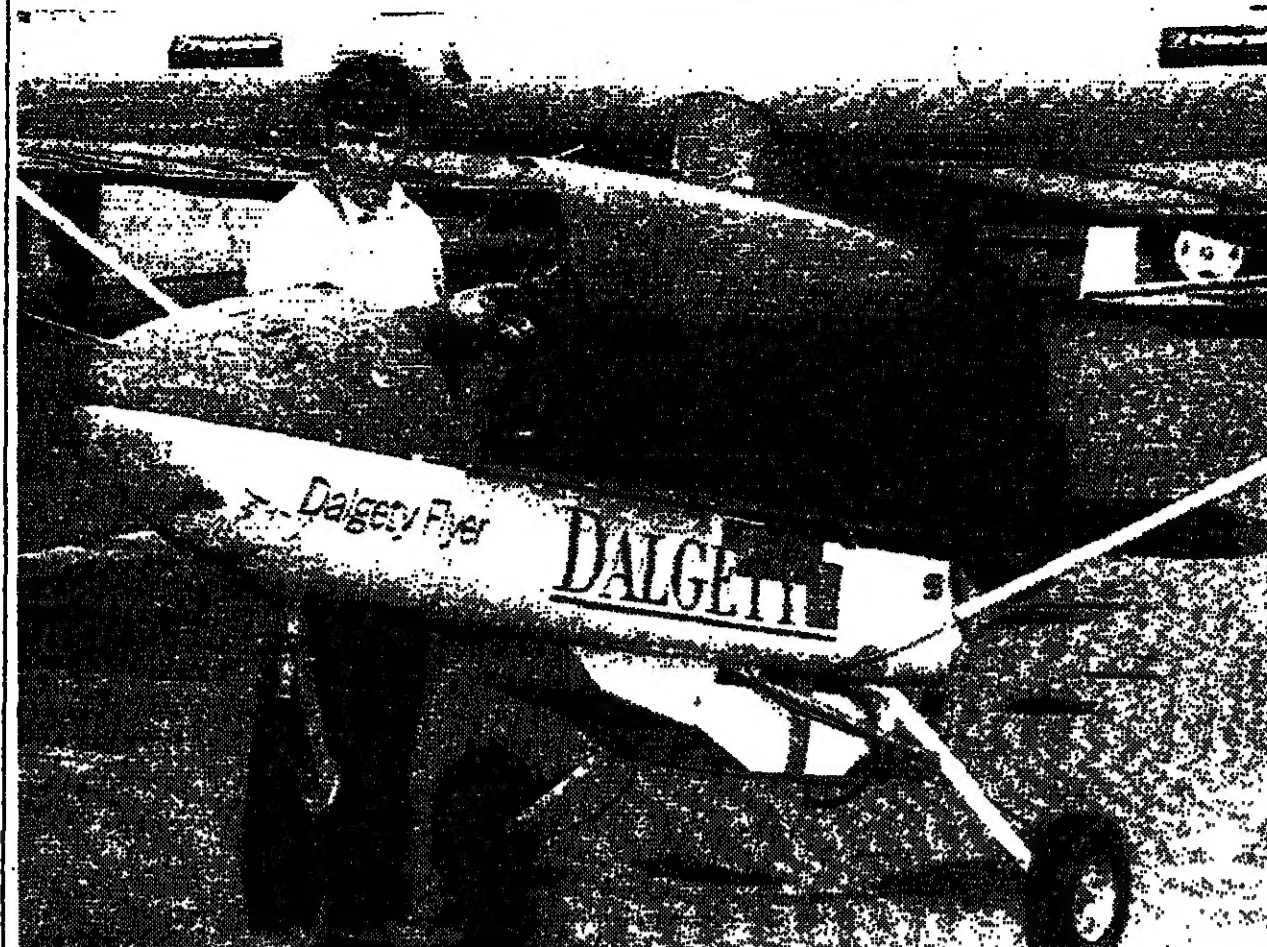
The presence of Soviet cameras and of Mr Leschinsky, who has become something of a national hero because of his fearless coverage from Kabul, indicates that the involvement of Soviet advisers is at a high level.

General Nawas claimed that armed groups from the local *fedayeen* tribes had cut the region off and had rejected peace proposals under pressure from Pakistan and Western countries. "The blockade of Khost will now be lifted by military means," he said.

● ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan released 351 political prisoners at the weekend as part of a general amnesty programme announced last month, Radio Kabul said (AP reports).

The radio, monitored in Islamabad, said the prisoners were freed from jails in the eastern provinces of Nangarhar and Kunar, and in Herat in western Afghanistan. It raises the number of freed political prisoners to 2,769 since President Najibullah declared an amnesty last month.

Royal meeting after forced landing



Mr Brian Milton, the British pilot trying to fly his micro-light plane from London to Darwin, Australia, in 30 days (Renter reports), Mr Milton said the day white-Dalgely Flyer in Amman yesterday after a refuelling error forced him to make an emergency landing on a road in southern Jordan. A Jordanian maintenance crew and medical teams flew to his rescue in military helicopters from Amman. Later Mr Milton met King Hussein and his son, Prince Abdullah, and told them about his bid to fly the 330 lb plane from London to Darwin, Australia, in 30 days (Renter reports). Mr Milton said the day white-Dalgely Flyer in Amman yesterday after a refuelling error forced him to make an emergency landing on a road in southern Jordan. A Jordanian maintenance crew and medical teams flew to his rescue in military helicopters from Amman. Later Mr Milton met King Hussein and his son, Prince Abdullah, and told them about his

KGB seeks facelift on 70th birthday

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Amid columns of glowing praise in the official Soviet press, the KGB yesterday celebrated its 70th birthday with its grip on the levers of state power intact, but anxiously searching for a new, less brutal image for its agents.

With a staff at home and abroad conservatively estimated at 700,000, the KGB is considered by Western experts

to be the single most powerful organization in the Soviet Union. As recent ugly scenes of violence against Jews and Western reporters have shown, the advent of glasnost has done little to affect its traditional *modus operandi*.

Some of the 8,500-strong foreign community in Moscow marked the celebrations by shouting facetious greetings into the light fittings and other parts of their state-supplied

apartments and offices which are said to be linked to a KGB bugging network. Earlier, eight Soviet dissidents who attempted to mark the occasion with a small protest against the KGB.

True to the obsessive secrecy which has surrounded the organization since it was founded on December 20, 1917, as the *Cheka* ("The Extraordinary Commission to Combat Counter-Revolution,

Sabotage and Breach of Duty"), the KGB refused to permit publication of the keynote speech made to its main birthday celebrations.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, was among several hundred top KGB men to listen to the still secret speech by General Viktor Chebrikov, the KGB chief. Kim Philby, the British double agent (now rumoured to be a KGB agent) was also believed to have been present.

Burkina Faso hopes to learn from lessons of bloody coup

From Susan MacDonald, Ouagadougou

Captain Thomas Sankara's grave lies on the outskirts of town on the edge of the bush, just an unmarked mound of freshly-dug red earth in front of a row of 12 other new graves in a small burial patch.

A dirty Burkina Faso flag is spread across the top of the grave and held down by stones. A posy of plastic flowers stands in a jar. There are two earthenware pots containing *casati* at the lower corners. On one has been written "Peace to your soul, man" and on the other "Eternal regrets".

The pathetic display is completed by a couple of torn pictures of saints stuck in the earth and a ragged piece of *fasci* *dan* *fani* cloth, the late President insisted should be worn by all to promote the country's cotton industry.

It was to this grave that thousands of people flocked on the morning of October 16, shocked and stunned by the news that their President had been shot dead in a coup the day before. Rumours have it that one of his feet still stuck out from the earth hastily piled over him by his killers and that there was blood everywhere.

Captain Sankara's four years of revolution rest there. His military colleagues who overthrew him are now revising it. The sines were for water, health, education and agricultural self-sufficiency for all, and to eradicate corruption

and "imperialist meddling". But a revolution imposed by a military elite on a population of peasant farmers succeeded only in widening the gulf of incomprehension between them.

The revolution tried to overturn centuries of village traditions and superstition which were blocking agricultural reform. The role of village elders in decision-making was cast aside in favour of nationwide revolutionary committees run by young boys wielding Kalashnikov rifles. New-found power went to their heads. In government and administration, too, experience gave way to youth.

What meeting-point could there be between the traditionally-robust elders sitting with calm dignity at a village ceremony I attended and the

leads of 15 or 16, with Kalashnikovs slung across their chests and baseball caps tipped over their eyes, strutting around and pushing back the crowd.

The new regime, headed by Captain Sankara's deputy, Captain Blaise Compaore, sees the errors only too well. The enthusiasm created in 1983 when President Sankara came to power has long since evaporated. The new leaders know they must revise the power structures but they must take the Army with them.

Captain Arsene Ye, the big, burly new head of the Revolutionary Committee, says frankly that the reason the people could play no part or have no voice in this latest coup was that grassroots-level committees had effectively suppressed all freedom of expression. A nationwide questionnaire on the pros and cons of the revolution has now been circulated to every town and village.

The results are due to be published soon. The people are fed up with the very word revolution and are requesting a return to civilian government. Soldiers have also been questioned about their views but these will not be published.

"They could have asked us our opinion before killing

Sankara," one man remarked, referring to the horror felt over the President's death.

The justification given by his fellow officers was that Captain Sankara had become unapproachable. In the end his three principal aides, including Captain Compaore, who had helped to bring him to power, were hardly on speaking terms with him.

Probably the last straw was President Sankara's decision to form a militia for his own protection, headed by a man wanted by Interpol for murder. The belief that he was about to have his three aides arrested led them to move first. His actual death may not have been premeditated; it was more likely the result of hot-headed soldiers taking the law into their own hands and spraying the room he was in with bullets, killing him and 12 of his advisers.

Despite excesses, the revolution has made progress in solving the country's formidable problems, which are compounded by drought.

The difficulty will be maintaining the positive aspects of the revolution while phasing out the negative ones.

"Better one step forward with the people than 10 steps without them," the late President said in August. It was a speech that his erstwhile military colleagues now say was forced upon him, written by others and read by him as a "confession of his own sins".

Kenya 'undermined'

Moi lashes scapegoats

From Paul Vallely, Nairobi

In the view of President Moi of Kenya the unprovoked aggression of the Ugandan Army in recent fierce border clashes offers only the latest example of the way in which the country is being undermined by hostile forces of all kinds.

It is a view shared by the local press, reporting on the events with varying degrees of melodrama.

In the past two months alone, threats to the well-being of the Government have been perceived from Kenya's Asian community, which is popularly regarded as a huge currency-smuggling ring; its students, who are an ungrateful elite; Western missionaries, who are plotting with the Ku Klux Klan against the state; Amnesty International, which is funded by South Africa to discredit the Government; the Western media, whose mission is to prevent Third World development; the Iranians, who were behind Islamic riots in Mombasa last month; and Libya, which, if Kenyan politicians are to be believed, is behind everything else.

There is a sadness in all this, for Kenya is not under threat in any immediate way. It is suffering in the world recession, as all Third World countries are. But comparatively speaking, though it gets less for its coffee and tea than of late, it has a sound and relatively diverse economy with adequate local and multinational investment.

It has inherited firm British colonial institutions in the judiciary and the civil service. It has a large and thriving middle class whose sense of self-interest and self-preservation are the surest touchstones to President Moi's remaining in office until his natural death.

Its long-term threats are from the lack of provision for its Government is making to cope with one of the fastest growing populations in the world. Though official figures say otherwise, the rate of un-

employment in Kenya is about 50 per cent. Little new employment is being created. With half the population now under 15, it will not be many years before social imbalance turns into social unrest. But though the government acknowledges the need to address these big problems, there is no systematic attempt to do anything.

Instead President Moi and his coteries turned with sudden decisiveness on the symptoms, real or imagined. As a result, observers here say, politics in Kenya have turned into a grotesque parody. "It is as if they are always trying to find a new scapegoat to draw attention from the real issues," one diplomat said.

Last year the great threat was MwaKenya, a shadowy Lusaka - President Kaunda of Zambia, chairman of the Organization of African Unity, agreed yesterday to mediate in a border confrontation between Uganda and Kenya, saying he would contact their leaders (Our Foreign Staff writes).

He was speaking after meeting Mr Ibrahim Mukibbi, the Ugandan Foreign Minister, who brought an appeal for OAU mediation. Between 12 and 30 people were killed in three days of clashes last week but yesterday the situation was reported to be calm, with Ugandan troops reportedly having withdrawn to a mile from the border.

organization which the Government claimed was dedicated to its violent overthrow. There was small evidence of actual subversive activity, but the Government response was so heavy-handed that it brought a detailed critique from Amnesty International.

Things were quiet over the summer. Then last month the Government swooped on a group of Asian coffee, merchant and senior bankers, accusing them of illegally sending currency abroad.

The bankers were pillars of the Asian community. They were jailed and refused food and mattresses to them in prison, also found themselves detained. It was not an unpopular move, one diplomat observed. "There was delight among the black population, which dislikes the Asian success. But it backfired. It was a major reaction to a realization that there were currency violations. But it was by no means clear they had got the right people. An entire stratum of business life was destroyed."

After the Asians, it was the turn of the students. Following a student meeting at the university at which it was alleged disrespectful remarks had been made about the President, paramilitary police descended on the campus at 2am and arrested seven student leaders at gunpoint. By 5am the students were on the streets erecting barricades and throwing stones. By midday the paramilitary police had been unleashed. They beat up everyone they could find on the campus. Later the students' leader was jailed for 10 years after what one diplomat called an "amateurish" attempt to link him with the local Libyan Embassy.

Later last month seven American missionaries were expelled after a local newspaper claimed they were agents in a Ku Klux Klan plan to overthrow President Moi. The letter with the "plan" had been leaked to the newspaper from the President's office. Nine more missionaries were about to be evicted when the authorities, faced with clear evidence that the letter was a hoax, did an about-turn.

On analyst observed: "The only unifying link in all this is that on each of the issues the response of the ordinary people has been to howl at the scapegoat and get behind the President. With presidential elections due in the next two months, perhaps that is no coincidence."

40 killed despite rebel truce

Manila - Fighting continued near the southern city of Zamboanga despite communist rebels and the Government agreeing a four-day Christmas truce (Humphrey Hawksley writes).

About 40 people have been killed in clashes between the army and Muslim pirates.

Nuclear test

Moscow (Renter) - The Soviet Union conducted an underground nuclear test in Kazakhstan "to check the results of research in the field of nuclear explosion physics".

Santa robbery

Stockholm (AFP) - A man dressed as Father Christmas robbed a bank in Ullared and escaped on a bicycle.

Judge bombed

Bastia, Corsica (AFP) - A bomb destroyed the official residence of the president of the Bastia Appeals Court, Judge Bernard Aubry. No one was in the house at the time.

Boxer charged

Halifax, Nova Scotia (AP) - Trevor Berbeck, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, has been charged with sexually assaulting a teenage girl.

Rocket deaths

Peking (AFP) - Eighteen people died in an explosion at a fireworks factory in Jiangxi province.

Explosive find

Bayonne (AFP) - Police found 1.4 tons of ammonal, an explosive used by the Basque separatist group Eta, in a van.

Bonn visit

Bonn (AFP) - Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, will visit Bonn in January.

Panda crime

Peking (Renter) - Two Chinese men who tried to smuggle the skin of a giant panda to Hong Kong have been jailed for 10 and 12 years.

Deputy quits amid Spanish Communists' finance crisis

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Communist Party, already in financial trouble, suffered a serious blow at the weekend with the resignation over policy differences of Senator Enrique Curiel, aged 39, its Deputy Secretary-General.

The crisis directly threatens Senator Gerardo Iglesias, the lacklustre Communist leader, only two months before the party's national congress. He now says he will resign if a majority of conference delegates wish.

As the Spanish Communists go cap in hand to the very private banks they advocate nationalizing, in order to cover pressing debts, Senator Iglesias's critics argue that the party's financial troubles derive from his failed strategy in combating Spain's ruling Socialists. With reported debts of 1.1 billion pesetas (about £5.5 million), the party has offered its headquarters, estimated to be worth £4 million, as collateral.

Senior Juan Berge, the party's spokesman, said: "We are ourselves an enterprise undergoing restructuring."

He was emphasizing the irony of the political group, which so often in recent years mobilized Spain's workers in old industries to resist restructuring, now being forced to do exactly that.

Senior Iglesias, a former coal miner, declared: "We live in a consumer society. Of course, the lack of funds has cramped our style." The party needs a loan of more than £3 million to cover payments due at the end of the year. These stem largely from debts contracted in last year's referendum campaign, in which the Communists opposed Spain's Nato membership, and the ensuing general election.

The party has already announced cuts of up to a third in the 90 full-time posts at the Central Committee's heavily protected offices in Madrid. Administrative staff, security men, canteen workers and even charwomen have taken

early retirement or been dismissed. In addition to the party's financial problems, several prominent figures are reportedly preparing to desert Senator Iglesias. The Communists have failed to build up a strong following to the left of the Socialist Party during its five years in office.

Deep divisions have reduced the number of members to only 60,000, compared with 200,000 when the party was made legal in 1977 - at that time making it the biggest political organization in the country. There are now only seven united-left MPs in the 350-seat Parliament. The high-water mark came in the 1979 second democratic elections, when the Communists took 10 per cent of the national vote - 18 per cent in Barcelona - and mustered 23 MPs. The Communists' failure was highlighted in last June's municipal and regional elections, when they polled only 1.3 million votes, compared with more than two million in 1979.

Genscher's turn to square budget circle

As Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, was leaving the unsuccessful Copenhagen summit on Europe's cash crisis earlier this month, he spotted Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish Foreign Minister and president of the EEC Council of Ministers, giving a television interview. Pretending he did not know the cameras were rolling, Herr Genscher rushed up to Mr Ellemann-Jensen, pumped his hand and congratulated him on Denmark's six months in the EEC chair.

"You have given us a basis on which to build," Herr Genscher declared before departing for Bonn to prepare for West Germany's own six-month presidency.

As West Germany's stint in the hot seat approaches Bonn takes over on January 1 - officials in Bonn still maintain there are grounds of optimism. West Germany is noted for its efficiency. Greece, which takes over from Bonn in the second half of 1988, is not. If there is to be progress on the financial crisis caused by soaring farm spending, it will have to be in the next six months.

Asked what their optimism is based on, West German officials point to the fact that despite its failure the Copenhagen summit was remarkably good tempered, thanks to the "collective will" (*Gruppendynamik*).

The final Danish compromise on farm cuts, a new revenue system and more cash for the southern states, remains on the table for Herr Genscher, as the new EEC president, to use as the basis for a deal at the special EEC summit in Brussels in February. He is to make a tour of all 12 capitals to do a little gentle arm-twisting before he and other EEC foreign ministers meet at the end of January and beginning of February to prepare for the Brussels talks.

If anyone can square the circle of EEC budget and farm policy, it is

Brussels View

By Richard Owen

probably Herr Genscher. He is the longest-serving European Foreign Minister, widely admired - and sometimes disliked - for his political cunning and propensity for survival.

Paradoxically, however, West Germany is the EEC state which has the greatest difficulty in persuading its farmers to cut output. It is therefore the country which has put up most resistance to the kind of radical mechanisms for budgetary restraint favoured by Mrs Thatcher as well as by the European Commission.

The *Gruppendynamik* of Copenhagen is unlikely to survive into

February if Chancellor Kohl continues to complain, as he did in Copenhagen, that "there are limits to the German capacity for suffering". Yet somehow he and Herr Genscher have to appease West Germany's farming lobby, which will influence vital local elections in the country in March and May.

Beyond this dilemma lies the wider issue of West German disillusionment with the EEC as such. "We Germans are re-discovering nationalism," one academic told me on a recent visit to Bonn. "We used to think submerging our identity in the EEC compensated for the division of Germany into East and West." West German resentment at being the largest contributor to the EEC budget while suffering the worst farm cuts coincides with a growing trend towards accommodation with East Germany and even - in the view of more alarmist observers - hankering for neutralism.

At the Foreign Ministry in Bonn Herr Genscher's aides dismiss this, insisting that West Germany is thoroughly committed to Europe and, moreover, determined to solve the financial reform package. The moment Copenhagen ended, Herr Genscher ordered detailed West German efforts to find common ground among the Twelve. He is "keeping his cards close to his chest", but one probable element is a substantial

increase in the social and regional funds to benefit the southern states.

The funds are unlikely to be doubled, as the south would want, but Bonn envisages a 60 per cent increase, with funds allocated to deprived regions. One advantage of the regional approach is that it would benefit Italy, which has difficulty with other parts of the inter-linked reform package, above all the switch from an EEC revenue system based largely on VAT to one partly based on GNP (gross national product). Italy has problems declaring its true GNP because of the sizeable Italian "black economy".

Herr Genscher is now at the high point of his career, and opinion polls in Bonn consistently rate him the most respected West German politician. But he not only has to find a compromise acceptable to the 12, he also has to satisfy all sides within the centre-right coalition in Bonn, not least over farm spending. What goes down well with Herr Genscher's Free Democrats (liberals) does not necessarily accord with the majority coalition partners, Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats.

If Herr Genscher, for all his skill, fails in this dual task, the February summit seems bound to fail, and the problems will then pile up for a showdown at the Hanover summit in June, at the end of the West German presidency.

THERE'S MORE TO OLYMPUS



There is no question: Olympus nowadays ranks among the leading camera suppliers both in Europe and throughout the world. And in the category of the new intelligent compact 35 mm viewfinder cameras, the weatherproof AF-1 is one of the best-selling in Europe. The reason for this success – in an increasingly competitive market – is based on one simple fact: product quality and design.

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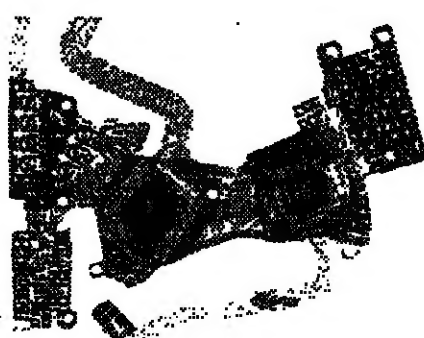
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Small picture: Printed circuit board.
Large picture: The weatherproofed Olympus AF-1.

SPECTRUM

Questions of life and death

At the eye of the storm over NHS funding, doctors are being forced to choose who will live and who will die.
Brian James and Lee Rodwell report
 on what has become a game of chance

It could be a question from one of those new-style board games so popular this Christmas: "If you had one place left in your lifeboat and could decide to save the life either of a 17-year-old girl or a 34-year-old mother of two children, who would you choose?"

This real-life decision, with its real-death consequence, was made by a specialist in a renal dialysis unit of a British hospital; such appalling choices are forced routinely upon the clinicians working under stress in our overstretched health system. And that is not a game that even gods lightly play.

A year of noisy debate on the creaking state of the National Health Service has risen to new peaks of tumult in the past few days, with the Government finding a little more money to slow the rate of ward closures and operational postponements, and the Prince of Wales sending for the chief of his local health authority to determine facts.

His Royal Highness's venture into this minefield reflects the confusion of many. For there are lies, damned lies and National Health statistics. We are "spending more than ever in our history on the NHS, here are the figures" ... Yet "every hospital in the land is shutting wards and cancelling operations, here are the lists" ... We have "the biggest NHS in the world, the largest employer in Europe" ... Yet every European neighbour "spends more on its health" ... The biggest single problem is "a shortage of trained nurses" ... Yet Britain has "more nurses per capita than any similarly developed nation".

The debate, often ideologically-based and therefore more sterile than the theatres themselves, will rumble on. Meanwhile, doctors will continue to play a game of chance, with our sick as unknowing pawns who are moved to places of safety - or wiped from the board for ever - without ever knowing the rules.

Because there are virtually none. According to a survey carried out by *The Times*, whether when desperately sick you live or you die - or, at the very least, whether the affliction that gives you pain and disability is cured now or much, much later - will

probably depend on a number of factors.

They include where you live (six out of 10 on the list wait more than a year for hernia operations in Twickenham, while in the neighbouring East Surrey district nobody has waited as long as a year), how persistent your GP is (a doctor who will nag on your behalf could be a life-saver), your social circumstances (the housewife who is prepared to lay stoically a-bed will seldom get priority when a breadwinner needs similar treatment), your blood group (if you are marked for a transplant) and even, often, your lifestyle (smokers and the determinedly fat are often relegated in favour of those likely to get the most from an extended life).

Were these not imponderables enough, the personal objectives and subjective whims of the specialists are ultimately conclusive. What weighs most heavily on the minds of those who know of the 17-year-old left to die in that kidney unit was the belief that somewhere else in Britain that day another unit could well have been doggedly saving the life of an elderly vagrant with nowhere to go and perhaps little wish to live.

It is these dislocations of need and response that make Professor Alan Maynard, director of the Centre for Health Education at the University of York, insist that there should be some national system of waiting lists priorities, and that such a system should be based on a carefully calculated equation of known costs and actuarial assessment about the length and quality of the patient's remaining life.

"At present there is no national policy and that's anarchy," he says. "We should be looking at the potential benefits. Most of these people aren't going to die, so what you want is some measure of outcome. You have to ask, what does it cost and what is the benefit in terms of duration of life, quality of life, reduction of disability? You may then decide to treat someone of 20 rather than someone of 65 or the other way around. But you want an objective outcome measurement. At the moment we haven't got that."

In March this year 688,000 people in England alone were



Hospital cuts: there are lies, damned lies and National Health statistics, but whether you live or die depends on a number of crucial factors

waiting for in-patient hospital treatment; of these, 162,000 had been waiting for more than a year.

Who decides which cases get priority? Doctors are given no formal training in clinical management, yet it is the doctors - in general, either the consultant or a senior member of his staff - who have to work out their own system. No national guidelines exist.

Hugh Dudley, a gastroenterologist and professor of surgery at St Mary's, Paddington, admits: "To a certain extent it's arbitrary. It's a balancing act. The bulk of the waiting lists is made up of non-emergency cases. Our elective surgery list is divided up into three categories: urgent, soon and routine. The life threatening ones - like cancer - are urgent. Then you take the ones which may turn from non life-threatening into life-threatening - things like a complicated hernia."

"There may also be social or occupational factors. You may have an elderly man, living alone, who is unable to cope. Or a man who is not able to work but has a mortgage and hire purchase commitments and a wife and two

children to support. Anyone worth his salt would not fail to ask a patient about this sort of thing."

Dudley concedes that persistent GPs can make a difference. "A good GP will nag somebody like me in the best interests of his patient. GPs have an important role in alerting us to the social circumstances of the case."

Heart surgeon Terence English generally has 30 or more patients waiting for heart transplants to be carried out at Papworth Hospital. "When patients are referred to me I'm always perfectly frank about the way the system works," he says. "When they are accepted their name goes on the bottom of the list and, all things being equal, they will be given a transplant when they get to the top of their particular blood group. However, if I have another patient who is very ill I might decide to give the heart to him on medical grounds, and they accept this."

But does he also take into account other factors - such as whether the patient is going to lead a healthy lifestyle? "Those who have been drinking heavily or smoking have stopped or I couldn't take them on for transplants. With other patients you do

tell them that there's not much point in doing a bypass graft if they will still be smoking. Obesity is as big a problem."

Lilian Meikle is the supervisor in the orthopaedic department of Glasgow's Royal Infirmary. Although the waiting time there for a hip replacement operation is only six to eight weeks (but it can be as long as a year in Gloucester), patients requiring surgery to their hands may have to wait for as long as two years.

"We have only one consultant and with hands you get a lot of

emergencies," she says. "So if the problem is something a person can live with, we keep them on the list until we can fit them in. We are not going to make an 80-year-old wait two years and if a younger person's livelihood depended on an operation we'd take that into consideration. If GPs phone us, we try to do something about it."

Elizabeth Ward, president of the British Kidney Patient Association, says that there are about 3,760 kidney patients currently on dialysis waiting for kidney transplants. There is, however, no wait-

IN THE WAITING ROOM

In-patient waiting lists (to the end of September). Figures in brackets indicate those waiting a year or more

	Newcastle	Birmingham Central	Peterborough
General surgery	1,032 (34)	1,033 (315)	593 (56)
Urology	520 (53)	423 (230)	637 (162)
Orthopaedics	848 (183)	736 (183)	851 (176)
Ear, nose and throat	577 (75)	196 (7)	1,144 (214)
Ophthalmology	1,532 (329)	N/a	409 (77)
Oral surgery	578 (126)	191 (63)	502 (85)
Plastic surgery	1,806 (918)	N/a	N/a
Cardiac	357 (110)	287 (57)	N/a
Neurology	150 (4)	331 (135)	N/a

Source: district health authorities

N/a: not applicable/available

Fighting the good fight

Father Sergio, a small town priest who runs a parish on the outskirts of Mexico City, proudly acknowledges he leads a schizophrenic life. Several nights a week the 42-year-old man of the cloth throws off his cassock, covers his face with a red and gold mask and dons a tightly-fitting stretch suit as he locks arms with a muscled partner in a wrestling match.

The transformation from Father Sergio to Brother Thunderstorm ("Fray Tormenta"), as he is known in wrestling circles, is far from a hobby. His life in the ring has evolved into an obsession to keep afloat the orphanage he single-handedly organized some 12 years ago.

"Look, all my life I saw that drug addiction, prostitution and delinquency were ruining children. They get there for lack of just love, affection and understanding. I decided that if I couldn't solve the problem, at least I could help alleviate it," says the priest as he shows his hands, slightly deformed from years of throws, flips and punches.

Since he opened his orphanage, some 1,000 children have knocked on his door. The inspiration to train as a wrestler to support the orphanage was based on a 1960s Mexican film of a priest who followed the same route. The streets are no stranger to Father Sergio. Before his religious conversion, his mother had almost given

Father Sergio is a man with a mission: to keep his orphanage running by wrestling



Masked missionary: Father Sergio as Brother Thunderstorm

up hope for the youth who idled away the hours in roadside bars with a street gang.

The 89 children - 79 boys and 10 girls - who live with Father Sergio in the Mexican town of Xometla range from ages one to 18. Half of them are orphans and abandoned street kids. The rest are children of prostitutes who have been handed over in the hope that the priest can provide them with a better future.

Cramped in three run-down, dimly lit rooms attached to the main church, the "cubs" as they call themselves, follow a disciplined schedule. At 5.30 every morning, mattresses are dragged out of rooms to air in the sunlight, and the other children hover over the younger ones to ensure they manage a turn in the one communal bathroom. After breakfast they are off to school. Between 2pm and 3pm, while some lunch, others tidy up their few possessions. Two hours of mandatory study are followed by a recreation period. They eat dinner at 6.30pm, and watch television before bedtime, except when mass is conducted.

Two women, hired by Father Sergio, are in charge of the cooking, scrubbing and washing. But the older boys and girls attend to the younger cubs in the daily ritual of study, bathing and recreation.

Asked what career they want to pursue, a row of the boys exchange mischievous glances and in unison inflate their chests: "We want to follow in the footsteps of Brother Thunderstorm, the wrestler," whom they affectionately refer to as "boss", "father", or "chicharro" (green pea), an apt description

of the way his stocky body bulges in a wrestling suit.

Disputes among the cubs are handled in a somewhat irreverent fashion. "Father puts gloves on us, takes us to the ring in the adjoining courtyard, and we cool down," says José Antonio, aged 14, better known as Snake.

José Antonio, appointed by the priest as his second in command, is from a broken home. He says he first came to the priest nine years ago after his father, in a fit of drunken rage, threatened to burn the family with kerosene. "If it weren't for the Father I would probably be out with the gang stealing or doing drugs. Instead, I go to school. I might not have everything, but there is nothing that I lack here."

Father Sergio does not believe that "Brother Thunderstorm" conflicts with his religious duties. "Wrestling is a sport, while being a priest is a selfless act. Wrestling is work. Like any father I have a profession to support my children." Some £16 per day, scraped together from donations and his wrestling, keeps his orphanage running.

"At first people of the community did not believe their pastor was a wrestler. But now, the community brings donations of everything from beans and tortillas to clothes for the orphanage," he says. This was not always the case. Over the past 12 years, Father Sergio has packed his bags at least six times after receiving a chilly reception from communities who feared his orphanage would bring no good.

Now, however, parishioners are helping Father Sergio secure a parcel of land that can be converted into his dream of a city for unprotected children, complete with sporting facilities. Father Sergio believes that engaging youth in sports keeps them off the streets and out of trouble.

"If I do this it's because I am a Mexican and a priest," he says. "When I die, God will surely say: 'As a priest, Sergio, you made a lot of mistakes, but because you took in so many children I'll give you a chance to pass through heaven's gates.'"

Madeline Eisner

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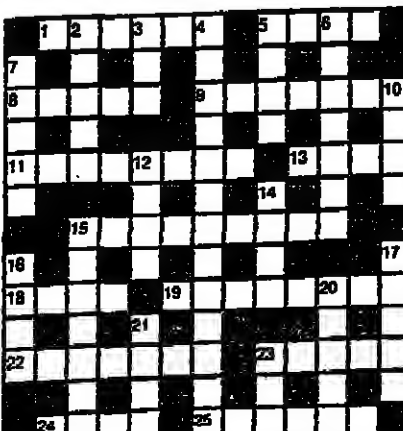
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- 8 Cheap wine (5)
- 9 On no side (7)
- 11 Wall growing shrub (8)
- 13 Manner (4)
- 15 Eastern alms (9)
- 18 Invalid (4)
- 19 Kampuchea (8)
- 22 Dry vigorously (3,4)
- 23 Advertising type (5)
- 24 Wheel ring (4)
- 25 Turkish capital (6)

DOWN

- 2 Chew noisily (5)
- 3 Razorbill (3)
- 4 First Cambodian president (7,8)
- 5 Crucial point (4)
- 6 Venerer (7)
- 7 Romp (5)
- 10 Connection (4)
- 12 Resembling (4)
- 14 Pavement edge (4)
- 15 Hotel page (7)
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- 17 Shrewd (5)
- 20 Object (5)
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NO MAGINOT MENTALITY

Nato will soon be completing proposals for conventional arms reductions: it also wants to modernize its conventional arms. The two are not incompatible. They are part of the one object: to achieve military stability in Europe and thereby lessen political tension. In a letter published in *The Times* on December 17, Mr Armen Oganessian, of the Novosti Press Agency, takes issue with us — in the wake of the INF agreement — for advocating Nato force modernization.

He objects to "clever weapons stuffed with electronics" — those projectiles, known in western military parlance as "smart weapons", intended to reduce the dependence of allied commanders on vastly more powerful nuclear arms. There is no question of a new generation of destructive arms being suddenly spirited down out of the blue.

But Soviet weapons' developers, like those of other nations, have been improving and inventing new conventional weaponry and will continue to do so while force remains the ultimate source of international security. What is important is that such weapons should enhance rather than reduce international stability. Since they are intended to pinpoint massed concentrations of attacking armour, supply dumps, missile sites, offensive air bases and enemy command posts, they may be properly called defensive in nature.

In fact, Mr Oganessian proposes a "defence-only strategy" based on the minimum of measures essential to assure national security. Any Nato member-state would tell him that this is precisely what they are doing. Many feel that not enough is being done to ensure even that. But perhaps Mr Oganessian means a "defensive defence"? If so, he needs to be enlightened.

There have been suggestions in the last few years — but not by serious authorities — that western military forces should be equipped, not with tanks but with anti-tank weapons, not with combat aircraft but with anti-aircraft

weapons, not with mobile formations but with troops dug-in ready to defend their homelands. Such proposals are, to put it charitably, idealistic. One need only remember the Maginot Line — stuffed with heavy guns, well provided with tanks and supported by aircraft. It proved futile.

Mr Oganessian also advocates corridors free of all weapons capable of launching a surprise attack. There is a comparatively simple way of achieving this. The Soviet Union today keeps 30 fully manned divisions beyond its western frontier: two in Poland, four in Hungary, five in Czechoslovakia and 19 in East Germany. Behind them, in the Baltic, Byelo-Russian and Carpathian Military Districts, 63 further divisions are echeloned to support offensive action. All these are their best Grade-1 divisions, primarily equipped with tanks supported by combat helicopters, assault guns and infantry in armoured fighting vehicles. Although these divisions are somewhat smaller than their western equivalents, their combat elements are not, the number of tanks being about the same or larger than those of the West.

Against this, Nato's non-indigenous forces in West Germany consist of five US and three British divisions, Belgian, Canadian and Dutch troops amounting to about one and a half, further back, and not under Nato command, are three French divisions — a total of fewer than 13. Such a corridor could indeed be created by simply withdrawing the 30 Soviet divisions to the Soviet Union.

If, instead of being massed in a crust on the western frontier, they were to disperse deeper into the interior or, better still, disband altogether, then, indeed, the possibility of surprise attack would be greatly reduced. Such simple measures would achieve what Mr Oganessian rightly sees as vital for Europe: building mutual confidence. His letter should have been sent, not just to *The Times*, but to Mr Gorbachev.

HELPING THE LAW'S YOUNG

Newcomers to the Bar, or awaiting call, are often encouraged through the poverty of their early years by a vision of a land of abundance if they are patient and hard working. There is indeed a lot of money to be made at the top, justifying, in at least some cases, the "rags to riches" defence of the course of an English advocate's career.

For those more or less permanently marooned in the middle ranks of the profession, however, the pickings are not so great. The greater sacrifices of youth merely give way to the lesser sacrifices of middle age. The only surprise is that they have put up with it so long.

A group of young barristers have organized themselves to try to change things, a sort of devils' trades union. The Younger Members Committee of the Society of Conservative Lawyers has produced an excellent report. Somewhere among their number may lurk a reforming Lord Chancellor for the early years of the next century. It has the great merit of refusing to be dazzled by tradition, particularly the hidebound privileges and practices of life in chambers; and of relating what at first must seem a technical, even petty matter to the wider general principles.

The report makes the well-known but still startling observation that anyone wishing to pursue a career at the Bar must expect at least two years of almost no income, and rely for survival on private means and parental support, part-time work, local authority grants if they can get them, and Inns of Court scholarships and pupillage awards — neither of which are likely to be generous or plentiful.

The Younger Members Committee makes the good point that, as a result, talent is lost to the Bar because the starting pay in other careers is much more enticing — £10,000 for articulated clerks, and rather more in the City. A better point still would have been to attack the automatic bias built into recruitment to the

Bar by the need to rely on parents or unearned income. Anything which widened the social base from which barristers are drawn would be good for them, and good for the law in general. The real problem is not the quantity of candidates for the Bar, but their quality and their range of background.

The suggested remedies are less important than the problems they are highlighting. Some of the changes in training methods which they propose will be strongly contested. There is, for instance, an argument for more, rather than less formal academic education during the pupillage years. It may not be directly relevant to the average criminal brief, but the Bar is a self-regulating profession from which we draw law officers and judges. Law ought always to be about something more profound than legal precedent and adversarial duelling.

One area of criticism is directed not so much to those responsible for the administration of the "official" training regime but to barristers in general, all of whom are to some degree responsible for the policies and attitudes adopted in chambers towards pupils, which the report describes as still resembling Victorian apprentices in the way they are treated.

There is also a plea that, in effect, members of chambers should take their responsibilities towards newcomers more seriously. That must include ensuring that adequate financial support is available. Most professions accept a duty to new entrants, not only to pass on the tricks of the trade but also to see they do not go hungry meanwhile. Members of the Bar may accept such an obligation to their pupils in principle. But the loose way the profession is organised, as a collection of self-employed individuals, has tended to make it no-one's particular business. Some chambers have already moved towards accepting a collective responsibility for the financial maintenance of pupils; but surely all of them should do so.

TEDDY DOESN'T BREAK DOWN

Twenty thousand children this Christmas will find among their presents a Harrods teddy bear. Soft and cuddly, with green knitted hat and sympathetic expression, the bears were sold out well before this last frantic week of shopping. "Bear business has been booming," say Harrods.

The grand store's findings are confirmed by other, humbler toy sellers. All note a return to traditional, uncomplicated toys after years in which teddies have come second to hi-tech. This year, doll's houses, building blocks, train sets and, especially, teddy bears, are leaving the shelves faster than the child-tailored wonders of electronics: computer games, action-men and their relatives.

Some say the advertisers are to blame — if blame is the right word. Christmas 1987 has been promoted as a traditional festival. Its selling point is Nostalgia. Round puddings wrapped in muslin — like great-grandmother reputedly made — are in demand. Real Christmas trees are back in fashion; so are log fires, candles and Christmas carols — the old ones.

But the advertisers cannot be blamed for the bear-boom. The shamelessly child-directed commercials on television are peacocks to technological toys. There are no eulogies to bears and none to dolls — unless they can walk, talk and generally "interact" with their potential owner. The new-style toys are brightly coloured or metallic, impressive-looking and complicated, and they cost — upwards of £100 is not unusual.

Shopkeepers deny that parents are put off by price. Hi-tech toys, they insist, span the whole range of prices. Teddy bears and dolls may, on average, be cheaper, but equally they can be just as expensive. Some venture the suggestion that the violent element in many electronic toys is encountering parental resistance. The Rambo factor is not what it used to be. All this,

however, is to ignore what it is that bears and dolls have that hi-tech toys do not: durability and, above all, a character that can be defined by that of their owner.

The unwrapping of an electronic toy is a complex affair involving several boxes, sets of instructions (in languages which include Dutch, Swedish and Japanese) and, in the end, elaborate assembly. The procedure can keep a curious child busy or drive an impatient child to fury. The instructions need to be read — and understood. Batteries or plugs may be needed, a battery's life having a habit of proving shorter than a child's fascination. And that is before the microchip develops a life of its own, unanticipated by the manual.

The appeal of a teddy bear is immediate. As many toy people's teddies testify — Mrs Thatcher's faithful Humphrey among them — the lifespan of a well-treated bear may approach or even exceed its owner's allotted three score years and ten. Bears are friendly and approachable, and — until an overplayed paw wears through, a much-pulled arm comes off, or the growl fades away — they need no maintenance. Teddies are thoroughly portable; they are socially acceptable everywhere — and they don't break down.

Above all, a teddy bear — of the unelectronic kind — has no preconceptions and no prepared script. The possibilities of a techno-toy are limited. It requires little imagination (except at times to interpret the instructions), and its range will eventually be exhausted. Not so teddy. He will provide on cue exactly what its owner requires: support, commiseration, a soft friendly ear to confide in or a furry shoulder to cry on. There is a lot to be said for a creature sufficiently broad-minded to appeal to both Mrs Thatcher and *Brideshead's* Sebastian Flyte. ... wonder teddy bears are making a comeback; how did anyone ever do without one?

A quizzical look at architecture

From the Very Reverend David Lewis

Sir, A report in today's *Times* (December 16) tells us that the Prince of Wales was praised by the Georgian Group for "practising what he preaches" — clearly a commendable thing to do in matters of virtue and morality. "The improvements he has made to Highgrove are admirable", said Mr Roger White.

The two pictures you publish cause me to come to a totally different conclusion. The house in its original state seems to me far more pleasing and less pretentious, which perhaps only goes to show that the architect might be in order. *de gustibus non est disputandum*, as the woman is reported to have said when she kissed the cow. I have the honour to remain, yours faithfully, DAVID LEWIS, St Michael's Rectory, 11 St Michael Street, Brecon, Powys.

From Mr John Woodward

Sir, The debate arising from the Mansion House speech of the Prince of Wales (report, December 2) should be extended to consider the impact from the unbridled development which will shortly threaten areas beyond our towns and cities.

Lincolnshire, as other rural shire counties, is formed of numerous small towns, villages and hamlets which are now facing an influx of residential development in unprecedented magnitude. It is feared that the quality of life in our rural communities will altogether disappear as did happen with urban redevelopment.

If our village settlements are to be swamped by those imported, characterless and scaleless agglomerations of identical bungalows beloved of speculative developers who describe them as "estates", yet the very opposite of the true "estates" which grace our countryside, then, inevitably, the forces which motivate and give cohesion to village life will not survive.

Rural communities find expression in the village greens, churchyards, manors, inns, cottages, lanes, alleyways, hedgerows, copes, becks and ponds. This mixture shelters people of all ages and stations and sustains wide

variations of interest within a recognisable unity of place.

These features need to be appreciated and retained when we are planning the integration of new developments with existing settlements. Those who control planning in our district councils should take stock of their timeless values before venturing on wholesale development.

May I suggest to those planners that this time the architects will not be blind to the task required of them and that as we come to build in the countryside their design skills can and must be used to safeguard our quality of life.

Yours truly, JOHN WOODWARD (President, Lincolnshire Society of Architects), High House, Scopwick, Lincoln.

From Mr J. S. Gordon
Sir, I am returning from a state visit to Paris with President of Uganda, is reported to have marched into the planning office in Kampala and ordered that he wished to see boulevards everywhere. Upon his departure, the harassed senior planning officer is reported to have sighed and said, "Thank God he didn't go to Venice".

Architecture is like music; it is the gaps between the notes and chords which give depth, quality and interest to the whole piece. The notes themselves contribute size, clarity and shape, as do buildings.

Similarly, it is the open spaces — the streets, parks and vistas — which underlie the psychological and aesthetic response to the buildings. The latter cannot be viewed as the entire source of an unpleasant view but must rather be considered in relation to a context which is, of necessity, partly organically historical and partly due to current idiomatic necessity.

The main problem in the current argument is that developers usually want profitable "pop songs", local planners usually want "good standards", politicians want "holos", whilst HRH is after a symphony. But at least Prince Charles may have more success in encouraging all the better musicians to work together!

Yours faithfully, J. S. GORDON, Gordons (Chartered Surveyors), 3 Stedham Place, WCI.

'Crockford's' preface

From Lady Oppenheimer

Sir, Dr Hagood has voiced for many of us the warm feelings of outrage provoked by the injustice of the criticisms of Dr Kuncic expressed in the *Crockford's* preface. Now that the author of the preface has been shown as no longer a feeless assistant but a sensitive human being himself, he has not thereby been shown to be in the right.

The answer to the attack on Dr Kuncic's style of leadership still needs to be given: that taking up, consciously and firmly, a middle position between competing extremes is not to "sit on the fence" nor to "fudge the issues". The moderate may be as clear-minded and courageous as the fanatic. People who simply take their stand on what their forefathers have said risk making void the word of God by their tradition.

In the waves of shock and pity over what happened, the worst aspect of the anonymity is being overlooked. Before the secret came out, it was being protected by lies to fellow Christians. In some quarters these lies are being

defended. They ought never to have been thought to be required.

It is in order to say "I know but I am not allowed to tell". If that would not meet the case, then the whole basis of the contract to write the preface was wrong. It would have been wrong, even if the outcome had been simply a continuing argument; and even if the Church had been strengthened not weakened thereby. Yours faithfully, HELEN OPPENHEIMER, L'Aigillon, Grouville, Jersey, CI, December 13.

From Mr Brian R. Taylor
Sir, Since the publication of the *Crockford's* preface we have seen a large number of statements condemning people because they have made statements condemning other people. One would have expected that those who found the practice distasteful in others would not themselves have indulged in it. Yours faithfully, BRIAN R. TAYLOR, 5 Donaldson Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, December 14.

Students at risk

From Mr P. F. Burrows

Sir, Last week, my 20-year-old son, who is at a well-known university, was admitted as an emergency case to an equally well-known hospital. His college authorities sought information as to his condition but were told by the ward sister that this could only be given to members of his direct family.

Fortunately, my wife and I were able to visit the hospital fairly immediately: we then informed the college of the situation. However, had circumstances been different, the college would have been in the invidious and possibly

expensive position of having to contact us in order to tell us that they had no information of any real value.

I have no doubt that as the law stands the hospital authorities were correct to act as they did. Nevertheless, sooner or later somebody in our position will surely suffer at best extreme inconvenience, and at worst a tragedy. Surely, in situations of this kind, college authorities should be given the right to be treated as close relatives of students away from home. Yours faithfully, P. F. BURROWS, 89 Saunders Road, E14, December 5.

Eye of the storm

From Mr Alex Henney

Sir, The article "Within the eye of the storm" by William Greaves (December 11) highlights the critical role of the national grid in maintaining power supplies. The piece raises the question of control of power sets to ensure stability and cope with problems like hurricanes in a privatised industry.

I advocate a competitive power market achieved by breaking the CEBG into five and encouraging independent generation.

Critical features of such a market are an independent grid and dispatch control which is available on equal terms to any

generator or customer, and a set of market rules (like the Stock Exchange rules) to ensure fair trading and security of supply.

A cardinal rule would be that the dispatch would have overriding control to run the generators to ensure stability. Another provision would be the creation of a financial reserve to cover the costs of major mishaps. Yours sincerely, ALEX HENNEY, 38 Swains Lane, N6, December 12.

Nature's moods

From Mr Winston Graham

Sir, On Saturday, December 12, I picked five fine camellias flowering without shelter in spite of the low day temperatures and the hard night frosts.

Looking at my garden which, as the result of October 16, still has the appearance of a cross between Flanders fields and a timber yard, one wonders if nature is trying to make up.

Yours faithfully, WINSTON GRAHAM, Abbotwood House, Buxted, Sussex.

Interrupted service

From Mrs O. M. Andrews

Sir, A comment upon the times: the long-announced Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Westminster Hospital at St Margaret's commenced with the announcement that because of a 7 o'clock vote the service would be curtailed, carols omitted, and verses left out.

What an odd priority. Could not the vote have been postponed to 7.15 pm?

Probably no more than a dozen MPs were present among the congregation of 700 or more.

I was appalled. Yours faithfully, O. M. ANDREWS, 75 Alderney Street, SW1, December 14.

Not in the spirit of Christmas

From the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathclyde

Sir, My life is made the more miserable by photocopied letters and articles which I feel obliged to read, if only out of respect for those who send them. I therefore dread the Christmas card containing the folded foolscap page of the past year's activities of my best friends and their families. Each one leaves me exhausted at the range of their myriad adventures, all triumphantly successful.

Before this well-intentioned scholarship becomes a widespread habit, may I plead for restraint. I love my friends for what they are, I am pleased to know they are alive and well. Their adventures and potted biographies I wish to be spared. Yours faithfully, GRAHAM HILLS, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathclyde, Penthouse, Livingstone Tower, 26 Richmond Street, Glasgow, December 14.

From Sir Christopher Coote
Sir, The arrival of the Christmas card season and its attendant stamp-licking prompts me to raise a niggling query.

The retail food trade is subject to rigorous statutory requirements and codes of practice regarding the handling of food (not pre-packed) across open counters for sale, in the laudable interests of hygiene, so that we do not put too many germs and bacteria in our mouths.

Yet when we buy our postage

Slow summing-up

From Mr Ralph Blumenau

Sir, I agree with Mrs Hill (December 17) that the Balkan-type queues with which we have to put up in the Post Office would be cut if it provided calculators.

That said, however, what about the courteous young girl behind the counter showing a bit of initiative herself by bringing a calculator of her own to work? The kind of calculator she needs can be had for about £3, quite apart from the fact that every school-leaver surely already possesses one.

Yours faithfully, RALPH BLUMENAU, 47 Buckingham Court, Kensington Park Road, W11, December 17.

From Mrs Edward Hughes
Sir, The Post Office's seasonal efficiency delivered a surprise this morning — a cheque (for a charity event held in November last year) dated October 26, 1986. Thus the envelope in which it arrived — boldly marked "first class" and postmarked Southampton and stamped with two 20p stamps — had made a postal journey of one year, one month and 20 days. Yours faithfully, PENELOPE LE FANU, 18 Markham Square, SW3, December 16.

From Mrs Janet Dean
Sir, Having recently requested the Aberdeen post office to continue to redirect my mail, I was pleased to receive confirmation that this would be done. The confirming letter was sent to the old address and, I am happy to announce, correctly redirected to the new one. Yours faithfully, JANET DEAN, The Knoll, 23 Hallmeadow Road, Glossop, Derbyshire, December 13.

Abortion Bill

From Dr C. B. Goodhart

Sir, Mrs Tessa Keswick (December 16) exaggerates what may be a real problem when she implies that the Abortion Bill would prevent "the termination of 5,000 or so of what are tragically the most severely handicapped foetuses".

In fact, the latest published figures for the June quarter, 1987, show that there were 486 abortions legally procured under the 1967 Act with mention of statutory ground 4 ("substantial risk of child being born seriously handicapped"). This is equivalent to rather under 2,000 in a full year, by no means all of which will have been done after the eighteenth week, and so would be covered by Mr Alton's Bill. Yours etc, C. B. GOODHART, Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, December 16.

Victorian values?

From Mrs A. M. Chisholm

Sir, Am I to be delighted by the business acumen of my three-year-old innkeeper in our Nativity Play who — without prompting and to the astonishment of the audience — demanded payment from Joseph and Mary for the use of the stable; or am I to be alarmed at such youthful materialism?

Yours faithfully, AURIOL CHISHOLM, 2 Manor Cottages, Iford, Nr Lewes, East Sussex, December 16.

stamps they are slid to us face-up across a probably dirty Post Office counter, after having been selected by leafing through sheets of stamps which often need separating with the licked finger of the clerk.

We seem quite happy to take these, home and industriously spend hours licking the backs.

Would some member of the medical profession be able to give us any indication of the health-dangers to which we may be exposing ourselves? Yours faithfully, C. J. COOTE, Russels, Blackpond Lane, Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire, December 13.

From Mrs Bridget Bonthron
Sir, Dr Dakers (December 11) should count himself lucky not to have been amongst my mother's acquaintances. She was delighted to receive Christmas cards signed only with Christian names. The following year she would send them out to other friends with the addendum, "and Margaret and the twins". Yours faithfully, BRIDGET BONTHRON, 3 Woodside Road, New Malden, Surrey, December 14.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 21 1905

This letter carried the signatures of 15 eminent medical authorities. Among them was that of Dr. Acland, referring to an interesting article, *the study of boys in the United States showed that boys there were allowed to bed longer than was usual in this country*.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LONGER HOURS OF SLEEP AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir, — Will you permit us to call attention through your columns to the importance of giving a sufficient amount of sleep to growing boys? In some of our largest schools the question has not received the consideration which it deserves.

The harm done by giving too little sleep to boys is not only that it lessens their power of fixing their attention on work, and causes slowness and weariness in games, but it is a definite factor in the causation of intellectual inefficiency, which may be far-reaching in its effects.

It is held by those who have paid special attention to the subject that a minimum of nine hours of unbroken rest in summer and nine and a half in winter is needed by the average boy of from 13 to 16. It is not sufficient to send the younger boys earlier to bed in dormitories in which the older boys cause a disturbance by coming up later, and a definite wrong is inflicted on growing boys by giving them only the same amount of sleep that is needed by those who have reached maturity. If this is done, it is almost certain that the majority of them will leave school less well equipped for the struggle of life, both in body and in mind, than might have been the case if more generous hours of rest had been accorded to them during their years of development.

The Council of the Medical Officers of Schools Association have sent a paper on this subject, which was recently read at their general meeting, to the headmaster and the chairman of the governing body of all the principal schools in the country, asking them to give it their consideration.

The question is one which should interest all parents who have a boy at school, and demands the serious attention of headmasters. It is satisfactory to learn that some of the great schools have the matter already under discussion, and we venture to hope that a much needed reform in this essential part of school hygiene will not be long postponed.

... DR. ACLAND has brought together the facts in relation to forty public schools, and has arranged them in a table which shows that only five of these afford to the boys the amount of sleep which is medically declared to be desirable or even necessary, and which is the rule in America. Out of twenty-seven medical officers of schools and other experts nine advocate ten hours' bed or more, eight advocate nine and a half to ten, six advocate nine to ten, and four nine as a "minimum". In twenty-three of the forty English schools the sleeping hours range from eight to eight and a half hours. There is absolute agreement among physiologists on the point that, whereas sleep is presumably required by the adult only for the recuperation or maintenance of existing tissue, it is required in childhood for the additional and still more important purposes of growth and development. ... Every argument that supports the necessity of abundant sleep for growing boys applies with even more force to the other sex, in which both bodily and intellectual growth are more rapid, in which the nervous system is more mobile and more easily deranged, and in which, nowadays, w keen competitions are encouraged both by teachers and employers ...



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 19: The Princess of Wales, Patron, National Children's Orchestra, this afternoon attended a rehearsal by the Orchestra at the Royal Academy of Music, Marylebone Road, London NW1.

Miss Alexandra Loyd was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales, Patron of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, will attend the twentieth anniversary of the Hospital's Christmas Carol concert at the Albert Hall at 7.15. Princess Margaret, President of the Royal Ballet, will attend the Raise the Roof Ball at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, at 8.30 in aid of the development fund.

The Duchess of Gloucester, patron of the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre, will attend a children's Christmas concert at St John's, Smith Square, at 2.40.

Dinner

Llandovery College
Lieutenant-Colonel J.R. Evans, Chairman of the Trustees of Llandovery College, presided at a dinner given last Friday evening at the Cardiff and County Club by the trustees in honour of Dr R. Brinley Jones, Warden of the College, who is shortly returning on taking up his appointment as Chairman of the Welsh Advisory Committee of the British Council. The Trustees present included the College Visitor, the Archbishop of Wales, Sir Cenydd Trefarner, Lord Justice Watkins, V.C. Viscount Tennyson, Lord Aberdare, Mr D.C. Mansel Lewis, Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, Mr W. Emrys Evans and Mr Peter M. Davies who proposed a toast to Dr and Mrs Jones.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr L. Zinovieff
and Miss A. Eccles
The engagement is announced between Leo, son of Mr Peter Zinovieff, and Miss Victoria Zinovieff, daughter of the Hon Simon Eccles and Mrs Sheila Eccles.

Dr T.J. Winiffrith
and Mrs H. Norton
The engagement is announced between Tom, second son of Sir John Winiffrith, and the late Lady Winiffrith of Hallhouse Farm, Appledore, Kent, and Helen, only daughter of the late Sir George Young and Lady Young.

Mr W.B. Horlick
and Miss L.C. Hanson
The engagement is announced between William Benedict, youngest son of Vice-Admiral Sir Ted and Lady Horlick, of Bath, and Lucy Hanson, daughter of Mrs Robin Hildyard of York, and Mr T.J.B. Hanson, of Invernesshire.

Dr E.E. Angard
and Miss E.B. Dill
The engagement is announced between Erik E. Angard, and Rosanne, elder daughter of the late Colonel John Dill, MBE, and of Mrs Dill, of The Grange, Upsall, Thirsk, North Yorkshire.

Mr J.M. Brown
and Miss E.J. Leaman
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr and Mrs W.V. Brown, of Nottingham, and Emma, only daughter of the late Mr Graham Leaman and Mrs Myrtle Leaman, of Bledington, Oxfordshire.

Mr S.P. Carter
and Miss S.J. Bryan
The engagement is announced between Simon Peter, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Carter, of Early,

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jean Racine, dramatist, La Ferrière, 1639; Sir Joseph Whitworth, B.L. mechanical engineer, Stockport, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, prime minister 1868, 1874-80, London, 1804; Joseph Stalin, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union 1922-53, Gori, Georgia, 1879.

DEATHS: Giovanni Boccaccio, Certaldo, Italy, 1375; James Parkinson, physician, London, 1824; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, Hollywood, 1940; Gladys Ripley, contralto, Chichester, 1955.

Reception

Legal & General
Professor Sir James Ball, Chairman of Legal & General, and Lady Ball, were hosts at a reception held at the London Coliseum on December 16, 1967, to mark the performance of *Hansel & Gretel*, sponsored by Legal & General, in aid of the Save the Children Fund. The reception was attended by members of the cast and management of the English National Opera, the trustees of the Save the Children Gala Committee and their guests.

Bridge

The British Bridge League has met and confirmed the selection en bloc of the team which came second in the recent world championships to represent Great Britain in the open section of the Olympiad in Venice from October 8 to 22. The team is M.J. Fyfe, R.M. Sheehan, R.S. Brock, A.R. Forrester, J.M. Armstrong, G.T. Kirby, n.p.c. R.A. Friday.

In the women's event Mrs N. Smith and Miss P. Davies have been exempted from trials to be held in London from April 28 to May 2.

Clifford Longley A question of theological discipline

A vigorous and invigorating public argument between an Oxford Professor of Logic and a Cambridge Professor of Divinity has broken out in the pages of *New Blackfriars*, the magazine of the Dominican Order in England. The logician, Professor Michael Dummett, enjoys the reputation of being the best at his trade in Britain; the theologian, Professor Nicholas Lash, of being unique.

Such men are likely to be found arguing unexpectedly from unexpected premises, as is the case. The Wykeham Professor of Logic is attacking the alleged dilution of Christian orthodoxy by liberal theologians; the Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity thinks his attack a disaster. Near the surface is the now seasonally topical issue of the Virgin Birth — whether Jesus Christ had a human father — but the dispute is not about the doctrine's truth. Perhaps the clash would be less sharp if it were. It is, in essence, about discipline.

These two are, or have a good claim to be, the leading Roman Catholic intellectual luminaries in the British scene. Both are laymen. Both write brilliantly, elevating rigorous theological controversy to a form of literature. Looming on the horizon, and somehow relevant without being mentioned, is a visit to Britain in January of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in the Vatican.

Professor Dummett published in the magazine's October edition a succinct denunciation of what he called a "remarkable consensus" said to exist among teachers of Catholic theology in United States seminaries and elsewhere.

Among them, he claimed, it is held to be almost self-evident that Jesus died without believing he was Christ or the Son of God; that he knew nothing of the Trinity; that he would have learned from his mother who his real (human) father was; and that he taught the imminent arrival of a messianic figure called "the Son of Man", whom he never identified with himself. The list appears also to include the belief that Jesus's body

remained in its tomb and decomposed there.

He objects to no-one holding such beliefs, only to their calling themselves Catholics. The Catholic Church teaches the opposite of all these things, and those who remain in it without consenting to those teachings are frauds. He concluded that "if the Catholic Church is not to be a laughing stock in the eyes of the world" then such divergence of views "ought, in my view, to be tolerated no longer."

This crushing of the tops of Catholic theology in the name of logic struck Professor Lash, in the December issue, to a logical counter-attack. "As a theologian I look to the philosopher to educate me in the art of moving properly from 'if' to 'then'. Inference is the philosopher's business. Readers of *New Blackfriars* who share this view of the matter and who respect, as I do, Michael Dummett's philosophical power, will expect his arguments to be strong. Dashing any such expectation, however, his article presents us with a catalogue of inferences so leaky as to constitute a kind of theological colander."

Dummett's reading of the New Testament is "flat-footed and anachronistic liberalism". He lists the non-sequiturs he detects in Dummett's specific arguments. But the real difference between them is the disciplinary one — Lash accuses Dummett of putting the requirement not to rock the boat "absurdly high in the catalogue of Christian virtues."

This, in the present climate (presumably a reference to Cardinal Ratzinger) is a dangerous thing to do. Of Dummett's remark that such divergence should no longer be tolerated, he declares: "At the present time, to write that sentence is either to be a creature of quite dove-like innocence or to be invoking, of set purpose, the forces of integralist repression."

New Blackfriars has given Professor Dummett the last word, at least so far. He acutely replies in the December edition: "There are, very properly, limits to Professor Lash's respect for experts. He convicts me of incompetence

not only in his area of expertise, but also of my own, namely logic." He then proceeds to answer the charges of *non sequitur* at length.

But again the focus returns to discipline, and here Dummett moves a little Lash's way. He did not mean to imply "we must never rock the boat." He does not want to revive the Inquisition, or even the Modernist oath — "I only want an authoritative pronouncement on the limits of admissible reinterpretation of the articles of the Creed."

He accepts, he states, that "one may feel bound, indeed one may be bound, to do or say what leads ecclesiastical authority to censure or even to cut one off from the body of the church; what one must not do is to separate oneself, individually or as part of a group, from that body."

But the principle does not decide its own application, so that in the Great Schism between the East and the West, for instance, each side made a different identification of the body from which they were bound not to break away. This common acceptance of the principle, however differently applied, is what, Dummett maintains, fundamentally distinguishes Orthodoxy and Catholicism from Protestantism.

His implicit challenge to Professor Lash now is to state his own position on some of the matters of substance. But this is not a clash between conservative and liberal in the Anglican sense, for the controversialists keep assuming each other that both are committed to "the dogmatic principle", and neither are minded to defend the *status quo*. Indeed Dummett's opening statement began with a declaration that the greatest priority for the Catholic Church is for unity with the Orthodox Churches, which "can only be achieved if the Catholic Church starts to dismantle that concentration of power at the centre which is unnecessary for the Pope's role as the focus of unity."

New Blackfriars; Blackfriars, Oxford OXI 3LY; £1 10.



Daniel Harding, aged 12, from Oxford, principal trumpet of the National Children's Orchestra, which was rehearsing for a concert at Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, last night. Daniel, who has achieved Grade 8 with distinction, was chosen to play with John Wilbraham at a Barbiere concert in aid of Shelter last month. The Princess of Wales, Patron of the children's orchestra, attended one of its rehearsals at the weekend. The NCO provides talented youngsters aged 7 to 13 with the opportunity of playing together in a full symphony orchestra (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

Appointments

Dr David Lipkin to be consultant cardiologist at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead. Dr Anthony Mann, senior lecturer in psychiatry at the hospital, to be professor of psychiatry at the University of London. Dr Nori Graham, consultant psychiatrist at the hospital, to be chairman of the National Alzheimer's Disease Society.

Nature notes

The woodcock
In the early morning, Canada geese fly round in small, noisy flocks: their commonest call is a double honk, with a pause in the middle like the break in a yodeler's voice. They are large brown birds, with a long black neck and a white patch on the cheek. They roost on lakes but in mid winter often feed on sugar beet fields.

Woodcock spend the day in low-lying, muddy parts of oak-woods, generally well concealed by brambles and dead bracken; at night they fly out into the fields to probe for earthworms with their long beaks.

Siskins and redpolls are feeding together in the alder trees, where they deftly extract the seeds from the cones. The siskins are yellow-green; the redpolls are brown, but sometimes look almost yellow in the low sun. More comorants are arriving inland: some of those around London have been found to come from the Welsh coast.

With the mild December, a few foxgloves still have one or two purple flowers at the top of the stem. This year's yarrow is still in flower, while the new feathery leaves of next year's plants are already pushing up.

By looking at the cyclic changes in the texture of bogs

Science report

'Nuclear winter' faced China 2,000 years ago

By Robert Matthews
Technology Correspondent

The appalling consequences of a nuclear winter may have been forestalled by famines in northern China more than 2,000 years ago which killed half the local population, recent work by two Nasa scientists has revealed.

Proponents of the nuclear winter claim that the vast quantity of smoke and dust thrown high into the atmosphere would blot out sunlight, plunging the world into a false winter that could persist for months, perhaps years.

Experts have known for some time that volcanic eruptions can mimic the effect on a small scale. Dr Kevin Pang and Dr James Hays of the Nasa laboratory at the California Institute of Technology believe that the widespread famines that struck northern China in the third century BC were the result of a volcanic winter, triggered by an eruption in Iceland.

With help from Dr Hsing-shang Chou of the Department of East Asian Languages and Culture at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), the two scientists discovered from ancient chronicles that a cold, wet spell struck the area in late 209 BC.

By looking at the cyclic changes in the texture of bogs

in Denmark, it emerged that there was a prolonged period of dank, wet weather around 205 BC for the whole of the northern European plain.

Then chemical analysis of ice cores taken in Greenland revealed that around this time there was a jump in the level of sulphuric acid deposited on the area, apparently by some colossal explosion in Iceland.

A volcanic eruption appeared to give the best fit to all these events. However, the two scientists decided to go to an unusual source of information to back up their claim.

They examined records showing the price of grain in various parts of China, as this would be closely linked to supplies. It was found that grain prices west of the Yellow River were twice as high as elsewhere in the northern regions, whereas the war was occurring on the other side, and to the south, of the river. This suggests that war was not to blame for the shortages.

The blame for the famines, therefore, appears to fall on the Icelandic eruption.

The ancient records also back up the claim of the proponents of the nuclear winter: that the blight lasts for months and years, rather than days. According to one Chinese chronicler the clouds and dust made "the stars invisible for three months".

valued at £1,809,426 net. She left £232,500 and some effects to personal legacies, and rest between St Margaret's Somerset Hospice, Taunton, the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation, the United Cambridge Hospitals, the NSPCC, PDSA, RSPB, RSPCA and World Wildlife Fund.

Mr Eric John Percy Crawford Lombard Knight, of Sanderson, Surrey, financial entrepreneur and founder of Lombard Banking, left estate valued at £245,009 net.

OBITUARY

MR T. R. GRIEVE

Development of the petrol trade

Mr T.R. Grieve, CBE, who was managing director of Shell-Mex and BP during the years when oil was overtaking coal as Britain's major source of energy, died on December 18. After spending over forty years in the oil industry he was active, after retirement, in fostering industrial development in Scotland. He was 78.

Thomas Robert Grieve was born on September 11, 1909, and after education at Fettes he joined the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company in 1930.

In the war he won a Military Cross. He had held a Territorial commission for some years in the Highland Light Infantry, and he ended his war service, later as a major, seconded to Royal Engineers Movement Control.

After the war he worked for Shell Oil briefly in Canada, then in Houston, Texas. He came back to London in 1951 as manager of Shell's distribution and supply department and in 1959 became a director of Shell-Mex and BP, Ltd.

He became vice-chairman and managing director in 1965, succeeding John Davies, who had gone to be first director-general of the newly created Confederation of British Industry.

Shell-Mex and BP was at that time involved in what is called the downstream part of the oil industry, concerned with refining and distribution of petrol. Tom Grieve was an able administrator — he understood particularly the importance of good personal relations in the company — and an expert in marketing.

He presided over rationalization of the distribution system in the United Kingdom, setting up depots,

linked by pipeline, from which petrol was taken by road: the whole operation backed up by computers. From 1965-71 he was chairman of United Kingdom Oil Pipelines, Ltd.

For a time Grieve was a member of the Minister of Power's Energy Advisory Council. During this time he was also, reflecting the company's interest in public issues, chairman of the Keep Britain Tidy Group.

When he retired in 1971, he was immediately appointed chairman of the London executive of the Scottish Council, the body devoted to building up Scottish trade and industry. Physically the move was not much of an inconvenience: the Scottish Council's London office was in Shell-Mex House in the Strand, but on what they described as the slum side, facing the street, whereas Grieve had been accustomed to the grandeur of the managing director's riverside suite.

His interests in the Scottish scene brought him the deputy chairmanship of the Hunterston Development Company. Meanwhile he also joined the boards of several other companies, some concerned with the oil industry, some in other areas of the economy.

From 1975-8 he was chairman of Hogg Robinson (Scotland) Ltd and from 1977-80 of Newarthill Ltd.

Throughout the 'seventies' he was on the management committee of the AA, and he was a governor of Shiplake College, Henley-on-Thames.

He is survived by his third wife, Peg, and by two daughters of his first marriage. His second wife died in 1985.

MR LOUIS LITTMAN

Mr Louis Littman, whose interests ranged from publishing and Jewish culture through dairy farming to property development, died on December 7, at the age of 62.

Louis Thomas Sidney Littman was born in London on November 2, 1923. At school in America, reluctantly, during the war, he decided to return to England in 1944, working his passage across the Atlantic as a cabin boy aboard a small Polish ship carrying explosives.

He then read law at Trinity College, Cambridge, and became a solicitor, practising in London from 1951 until 1967.

But all the time his overwhelming interest was the study of the classics of literature, and he was struck by the fact that many of the Jewish classics were not available in English. He set about remedying this in 1965 by establishing the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, dedicated to the memory of his father, Joseph Aaron Littman.

Not only was this venture financed by him but Littman was closely involved in the selection of books to be published and in the setting of a high standard of production. Now published by the Oxford University Press, the library numbers almost fifty works on religion, philosophy and history, with more in preparation.

In 1977, as chairman of the

Jewish Literary Trust, Littman acted swiftly to preserve *The Jewish Quarterly*, which has since prospered. In 1982 he founded the Thackeray Society at the Reform Club.

In 1966 Littman started farming in Dorset, and he came to own a vast agricultural estate of dairy farms. They made farmhouse cheddar cheese which won numerous prizes, and became one of the largest producers of goats' milk.

Meanwhile, in London and elsewhere, Littman turned his hand to property development; and it was a source of great satisfaction to him that in 1975 his Collette House in Piccadilly, between Bond Street and Burlington Arcade, received a commendation from Westminster City Council as a building of merit.

He was a founder member of the Society for the Study of Jewish Theology. He endowed the Littman Visiting Fellowship in Jewish theology, philosophy and law at the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies.

Synagogal life, too, received his support, as vice-chairman of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, and as chairman of the library committee of the Leo Baeck College.

The last years of Littman's life were dogged by illness which he bore with immense courage and dignity, helped by his wife, Collette, and their two sons.

MR KENT HARRISON

Mr Kent Harrison, FRCS, an eminent thoracic surgeon, who served on the consultant staff at St Thomas's Hospital from 1952 until his retirement in 1974, has died at the age of 60.

A Canadian, he qualified as an MD in Toronto in 1931. Just before the war he spent a year as Leverhulme Scholar at the Royal College of Surgeons.

He spent most of the war years in the Royal Army Medical Corps in the Middle East, commanding forward surgical unit no. 8 at the Battle of Alamain. He finished his

Army service with the rank of lieutenant-colonel in command of a surgical division of a general hospital.

After the war he became thoracic surgeon to the London County Council. This was the heyday of surgery for tuberculosis and the work led to his subsequent career.

After four years as consultant thoracic surgeon to Papworth and Addenbrooks hospitals, Cambridge, he went to St Thomas's, joining Norman Barrett, founding father of thoracic surgery there.

The hospital was at that time taking its first steps in cardiac surgery, and Harrison's wide experience of pulmonary and oesophageal surgery was of great benefit.

He was, from 1952, also consultant thoracic surgeon to the Royal Navy and the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Harrison was a modest man with a gentle approach towards patients. He taught not only a whole generation of surgeons, but paid equal attention to teaching junior medical students and nurses.

His wife, Mary Maryat, a painter, died before him. He is survived by four sons and three daughters.

Brigadier Cecil Francis Drew, who won the DSO in the First World War and in the Second commanded 183 Infantry Brigade, died on December 11. He was 97.

He was educated at Highgate and the Royal Military Academy and was commissioned in 1910 into the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), of which he commanded the 1st battalion in 1936-8. His last appointment was on the staff of GHQ Home Forces.

He was a JP in Buckinghamshire. His wife died in 1983. He is survived by a son.

THE ARTS

Rich picking

Now is the season of smorgasbord television, a fortnight crammed with compilations which will purport to present the highlights of the year. It is normally a wearying formula but *The South Bank Show Arts Review* (ITV) took up the challenge with inspired conviction. The two hours passed quickly, with a brisk mixture of performance, clips, interviews and discussions among the audience of arts glitterati.

TELEVISION

To the *Serious Money* formula of the National Theatre for power, opera for decadence and string quartets for sensitivity were added rap for street cred and dance for a sense of momentum. The set, a pastel post-modern temple of the arts, was partially engulfed by a sculpture by David Mach, which emphasized the appealing blend of wit, innovation and gravity that was the keynote of the show.

Melvyn Bragg's interviews were succinct but telling. Peter Blake spoke sagaciously of his neglect by the Royal Academy, Don McNeill said war movies were too full of killing and bad language and the Conservative MP Robert Hughes was full of brief eloquence on the need for a broadcasting standards authority. The whole was a surprisingly worthwhile exercise.

Weighty figures making fools of themselves are essential to the satirical side of Christmas; by the end of *Clive James in Japan Part 1*, (Saturday ITV), it was hard not to feel some sympathy for the great Australian wit and broadcaster as he plunged into a steaming, muddy pool and made an ungraceful exit from one of the mad Japanese game shows of which he has grown so fond.

The early part of the programme was less appealing. James delivered a backdated collection of impressions of Japan's bizarre food, alien cityscape and lemming-like businessmen streaming from office to whisky bar to whore house. Seemingly mad foreigners will always win an audience, but although it was possible to detect admiration behind the sarcasm, it was a pity that James never modified his tone of amused condescension.

Celia Brayfield

Carrying on regardless



"Little and loud": With *Babes in the Wood*, Barbara Windsor has made it to the Palladium

Waving a wand and walking like a lady, Barbara Windsor is making her debut at the Palladium as the Good Fairy. She tells Sheridan Morley how her wish was granted

This year's Palladium pantomime, only the second there since 1980 and opening tonight at a backstage cost of just over £1 million, is *Babes in the Wood*. With a cast of 50 also featuring Canon and Ball, Marti Webb, John Inman and Derek Griffiths, it marks the debut in that theatre of Barbara Windsor, just 38 years after she played her first pantomime in Golders Green.

"I was 12 at the time, an Ada Foster Babe, though actually I'd already been part of Madame Behenna's Juvenile Jollities with Fenella Fielding. Mum sent me to Ada Foster to lose my cockney accent, though I never quite managed that. She made dresses and Dad was on the buses, but I was the only child and they had a bit put by, so I went into the business as a child and then once I'd seen what pantomime was like I never really went back to the North London convent. Reverend Mother said the Golden Green Hippodrome had mined me."

"Sleeping Beauty it was, and they put me on the end of the line because I was always a bit little thing and too short for real chorus work. So I was the one allowed to say 'Here comes the Baron', but they always said I'd never make it because I was little and loud and in those days they only wanted posh people who could sing like opera stars."

"But after that first panto I got into *Love From Judy* for two years, though people forget what a tough business it used to be in those days: if you were a minute late for rehearsal, they fined you. Emile Littler kept coming to check you were still in the same make-up you used on opening night, and you weren't allowed to use the backstage lift if there were any stars in it."

"After Golden Green I didn't do a panto again until about 1955: *Red Riding Hood* that was, at Liverpool and just awful. The Dame and a heart attack at the dress rehearsal, there were rats everywhere and after we closed they tore the theatre down. Even by then they had started the cutbacks, so you only ever got about six people in the orchestra and another six doing all the singing and dancing in the chorus."

"The curious thing about panto is that the more they spend on the scenery, the less they spend on the actors or rehearsal time: even at the Palladium we only get about two weeks before previews. Mind you, most of us know the plots pretty well by now, though this is my

first Good Fairy so I'm having to practise walking like a lady and waving wands around: usually I do a very butch Aladdin or Dick Whittington."

"When I started on those in about 1970 the kids had all got a lot noisier and kept shouting 'Carry On' because that was really all they knew me for. Can you believe we're now starting on all that again, after 10 years? As soon as I finish at the Palladium I go into *Carry On Nursing*, though they say I'm too old now for the nurse so I have to be the ward sister instead. We were going to do *Carry On Dull* but the Americans threatened to sue, so we're back to the hospital jokes instead."

Now on the verge of her fifties, a survivor of Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop and an uneasy first marriage, Barbara Windsor is happily remarried to a restaurant proprietor in Amersham and takes the view that once you have survived in Stratford East, there is not a lot they can do to you at the Palladium: "I don't usually do Fairies, but I was keen to work the Palladium even if they do all make fun of me because I take panto so very seriously."

"The scripts may all be 20 years old with a few topical updates, but at least now the fashion has gone very traditional again. For a while every scene was full of TV references and it got very boring. Five years ago I broke my arm doing an Aladdin at Bradford because the cave was so slippery, and last year for a *Dick Whittington* at Hillingdon the scenery failed to arrive on the first night, so I had to keep telling the audience what it was going to look like and then we all bought them drinks afterwards."

"But nobody can afford proper understudies now, so you just have to carry on regardless, whatever is falling about your ears, which is usually the scenery. As Joan Littlewood always said: 'Use it, darling. Use it.'"

"In Nottingham I once got into the *Guinness Book of Records* for the longest-running Aladdin ever, four and a half months that was, and we had to keep changing all the Christmas jokes. But it really isn't a bad business as long as you get the right sort of Dame, preferably very crisp and clear and pure like John Inman."

"There's so much waffle in panto that when you get a really neat Dame it does help a lot, though the further south you get the worse the children behave. Then you have just to remember all the old routines: after all, it's not exactly Chekhov, is it, dearie?"

RADIO Self critical

Even if only until February, I am sorry to see *The Radio Programme* (Radio 4, Sundays and Tuesdays) go off the air. It began last autumn and immediately established itself as one of the programmes listeners had been waiting for. A year and three full series later, it has done nothing to disappoint us: rather the reverse. If those earlier editions had a fault, it was their flirtation with the celebrity contributor and this has been if not abandoned, at least reduced to the status of casual acquaintance. The programme has stopped saying,



Laurie Taylor: never soft

by implication: "Because these big names listen to radio, it is therefore worth listening to. And because they can be heard in chat with Laurie Taylor, this broadcast is worth listening to as well." The message now is that both are worth hearing for their own sake.

This is one means by which *The Radio Programme* has overcome the difficulty radio has always had in discussing its own output. *Critics' Forum* and *Kaleidoscope* have generally paid it scant attention, selecting occasional plays or features for the customary few minutes' consideration and often enough managing to convey the impression that they were jolly lucky to be included with the big league of theatre, cinema, art, books and television.

By contrast, *The Radio Programme*, having set aside the self-deprecating implications of that first series, now never for a moment suggests that it is engaged in a second division activity. Nor does it hesitate to tread on toes, without however making that into a sadistic occasion, for it has been notably successful in recruiting members of its three-person critical panels whose judgements have been thoughtful and well-founded.

That they have made such a good showing owes an immense amount to their chairman and presenter, Laurie Taylor. He is well informed, quick of mind, resolutely uncautious, but never soft. He has helped to create a programme that is once intelligent and popular without the slur of populization. From every point of view, then, producer Jenny Danks and her colleagues can be said to be fostering the art of radio.

The arts in general have played a very minor part in the subject matter of *The Radio Programme* ever since they began in 1948. Music until this year has played no part at all, so Alexander Goehr's *The Survival of the Synchron* raised welcome hopes. But the whole ancient institution of *Reith Lectures* continues to present obstacles which get no smaller with the years.

Radio is more than ever a medium in which the sound of one man talking for 30 minutes on end is at odds with the increasingly user-friendly aspirations of the output. Even Radio 3 avoids it.

Where the speaker is compelling, that can make the listener's task less onerous, but Professor Goehr is on the whole monotonous and my attempts to hear him through have sent me first to sleep and then to the printed text.

It reminds me though, that in talking or writing about music as here, without illustration, there is always the touch of sending a kiss by messenger, unless the readers/listeners have such a stock of music in their memories that they can fill in for themselves what the writer/speaker is referring to.

I am by no means in that category and I wonder how many people are and able to get full value from the arguments. For myself, one thread I have picked up seems to be saying that most contemporary "serious" music is now more remote from, and antipathetic to, the average musical listener than it has ever been. It offers an experience apparently quite unconnected with earlier traditions. They have become more or less part of a shared language, but as I read Professor Goehr, I find myself wondering if what is being written now can ever do the same.

Richard Morrison

David Wade

Mozartian Shaw

You Never Can Tell Haymarket, Leicester

It is 21 years since this lovely comedy last appeared at the Haymarket; roughly the same

THEATRE

length of time as its heroine's exile from which she returns to discover that her advanced opinions have become a back number.

In 1966, in the dawn of the feminist revival, Judy Campbell played her as an armoured-plated New Woman, indomitable even in defeat. As Irene Worth plays her, in these more complicated times, she no longer comes over as Madeira's answer to Germaine Greer: rather as a woman who only took to the liberationist cause as a result of marital misery, and who emerges as a traditional mother hen as soon as any of her brood seem to be in moral danger.

It is a beautiful performance, and once you have seen it, it is hard to imagine the part being played in any other way. In other words, it re-enacts the usual Shavian miracle by which plays written out of topical issues at a particular moment in intellectual history, adapt and renew themselves for all future circumstances.

These are ponderous terms to apply to the lightest and most deliberately commercial of all Shaw's comedies. *You Never Can Tell* stands midway between *The Philanderer* and *Man and Superman* in his dramas of sexual combat; with the obvious difference that here he knew so exactly what he wanted to say that he could

treat the whole thing as a delightful game; or, rather, a dance of social encounters, courtship and ideas, coming fittingly to an end with a fancy-dress ball in harlequin costumes and false noses.

Toby Robertson's production from first to last projects this festive atmosphere. There is no mining of the text for key speeches: the life of the show is in its balletic action, carried out with the precise lightness of touch that is needed to keep it airborne.

As for the laughs, there is much burnished comic dialogue but it is famously the old waiter who brings the house down with lines like "Cheese, sir?" and "Thank you, madam". Never were effects better prepared; and nowhere is there a stronger disproof that Shaw relies on clever speeches.

In this case, Michael Hordern, features wrinkled into smiles of benevolent subservience, or clutching a door post in vertigo when the terrible twists have done with him, has taken this character into a comic region where Shaw shakes hands with Mozart. If there is one moment I shall remember it is when Hordern, briefly immobilized, almost sheds tears of gratitude when somebody orders a coffee. Saul Radomsky's marine set and marine lighting almost have you breathing the ozone.

Irving Wardle

The Woman in Black

Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough

Christmas is the season for ghost stories and though the fashion for presenting them in the theatre has largely faded — victim of horror films and television — there is nothing to surpass the sudden shriek reading the air from somewhere you cannot quite place. This or that side of the stage was it? You can scarcely see for the shadows and that door, was it not locked a moment since, yes now it is slowly opening, slowly revealing...

Yes, that is the way to pass a mid-winter evening. And this full length play by Stephen Mallatrat, adapted from the book by Susan Hill, contains such classically chilling ingredients as the lonely house on the sea's edge, approachable only at low tide on the causeway through the marshes. It has sea mists that roll up without warning, townsfolk too scared to talk, gravestones, old documents and a hero who will not take shrieks for an answer but noses onward to get to the heart of the mystery.

Mallatrat has ingeniously

Gradually we are eased into watching the enactment, with Letts taking over the role of Kippes when young, and Strickland playing the agitated characters he meets. The director, Robin Herford, animates the scene in a variety of ways: appealing to our imagination to picture the stage as the island, the aisle the causeway; straight naturalistic detail of a child's nursery appearing where there were formerly shrouded grave-stones; and simplest of all, changing our feelings for the scene by making an actor turn and face another way.

Too many climates are cut off with a blackout, dissipating the tension — echoing a tendency in the book — but the performers generate the required atmosphere of alarm, especially when Strickland's handgrip features imply unspeakable dread. And the shrieks are piercing.

Jeremy Kingston

Starring the step-sister

DANCE

Cinderella/Royal Ballet Covent Garden

I have never seen Cynthia Harvey give a dud performance. Some roles she seizes and lights up with an entirely personal interpretation. To others, even if less individual, she brings a quiet intelligent skill. *Cinderella*, which she danced for the first time on Saturday night, lies in the middle of her range.

There were moments when a glance or a nuance of movement looked illuminatingly right; but others when she seemed to let the role itself take over and concentrated on simply precatating it. This was her first time on stage after six months' absence caused by an injury during the Royal Ballet's Russian tour, so it may well be that the will grow in the part.

Jay Jolley was her Prince: they have a good rapport and, although he can no longer do the steps as vigorously or precisely as Jonathan Cope did earlier in the week, Jolley shows more dash, more flair in presentation, more concern with character.

I must confess that some aspects of this production make me wonder how interested the Royal Ballet is in the ballet's meaning. Tracy Brown, for instance, dances with a sunny brightness; but isn't it odd to cast so young (and young looking) a dancer as the fairy godmother?

One problem is that the music is so stodgily played. I imagine this is not only Isaiah Jackson's fault: the Covent Garden orchestra have a reputation for taking ballet nights less seriously than operas, and may feel that having put themselves out for Haskin and Stravinsky is enough for one season. But



No exaggeration or fancy tricks: David Bintley stepping out

there certainly is no galvanizing influence at work here, and you would hardly know that this is, when properly played, much the best of Prokofiev's long ballet scores.

David Bintley's playing of the more timid step-sister remains the one real star performance, and what is particularly pleasing is that he does it without any exaggeration or fancy tricks.

He and Derek Deane have

both sharpened their performances as the sisters since their unscheduled first night debut: Deane is developing a nice line in winsome seductiveness. Special mention too for Jonathan Burrows's new gloss on Bintley's diminutive suitor, who suddenly shows himself overcome with amorous impatience.

John Percival

Missing the spirit

CONCERT

Philharmonia/Giulini Festival Hall

On a technical level, at least, one could argue that Carlo Maria Giulini's extremely leisurely approach to Schumann's Third Symphony gains as much as it sacrifices.

Out goes the exuberant, syncopated skip to the first movement, for instance, but in come born lines of unhurried, regal dominance, and upward string scales that have time to bite in the air.

Similarly, what it lacked in courting orchestral energy — and one thinks particularly of a finale that swept into life rather like one's pet dormouse waking from hibernation — it made up for in tonal opulence. The Philharmonia brass were in especially fine form. Yet Giulini seemed to mis-

Giulini's conception of the B Minor Mass, but five slowish movements in succession is at least three too many.

Schumann's *Manfred* overture proved a much apter receptacle for Giulini's brand of elegant melancholy, even if there were moments when the whole orchestra seemed to be waiting for someone else to start playing.

However, Radu Lupu made a very pallid impression in Schumann's Piano Concerto. No sparkle, no risk, no joy, no wit — it was efficient, but this (usually) most poetic of pianists is surely not satisfied with mere efficiency.

Richard Morrison

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

Abandoned, ill-treated, lost, injured:

The Wood Green Animal Shelter

has cared for these animals since 1924. It has a Free Clinic for the sick, it maintains a Cat Sanctuary and a Home for stray and unwanted animals at Heydon, nr. Royston, Herts. and at Godmanchester, Cambs. Visitors welcome anytime. Please, help by sending a donation for the strays' Christmas dinner.

601 Lordship Lane, London, N22 5LG (Appeals Sec. Dr. Margaret Young)

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

With sincere thanks for the enfolding relief and the many last comforts you kindly helped to provide, we wish all our good friends a truly splendid Christmas.

SISTER SUPERIOR

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE

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COLD COMFORT

It's all very well just to feel sorry for the old and needy. Kind thoughts won't warm cold rooms or comfort the lonely. We know. We have been looking after old people and helping them to stay in their own homes for over eighty years. Every penny helps when it can mean the difference between intolerable discomfort and happy independence.

Please be a friend and send a donation — today. You can be sure it will be used efficiently to provide for the old and forgotten, wherever they are. Friends of the Elderly can only cope with a fraction of these sad cases. With your help we can do so much more to make old age a happy and dignified time — but we urgently need the funds.

Please send donations to: The General Secretary, Friends of the Elderly (Dept. T), 42, Ebury Street, LONDON SW1W 0LZ. Registered charity number: 226604 OF THE ELDERLY. We also run eleven residential homes for the elderly.



Mallatrat has ingeniously

MONDAY PAGE

School on a high note



Just ordinary angels: Ben Turner (front) and choirboys of St George's School, Windsor, brushing up for *Matins* to be televised on Christmas morning

For the third consecutive year, Aidan Oliver is spending Christmas morning at school — and he loves it. Aidan, aged 11, is a pupil at Westminster Cathedral Choir School. Like most of the 780 choristers spread around Britain's 37 choir schools, he will go home on Christmas afternoon. Boys who attend Lincoln, Canterbury, Grimsby, Chichester and Lichfield stay on to sing at services until Boxing Day, and for the choristers at Westminster Abbey Choir School the holidays will not be officially beginning until December 28.

When the rest of the boys at Westminster broke up on December 17, the choristers began decorating their dormitories. "That's the best bit," Aidan says, though he also loves the annual trip to the ballet or opera. At Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford, the choristers' annual party has given way by popular consensus to what the headmaster, Hugh McDonald, calls a "disaster movie".

It is widely acknowledged that the English cathedral tradition is enjoying a golden age — though it is not clear why. "When a child comes here as a chorister," says Westminster's headmaster, Peter Hannigan, "it profoundly alters the family's life for four or five years." This comment is echoed by every choir school head, and every chorister's family.

The pupils' parents are among the many convinced that the high-flying choir schools are some of the best prep schools in the land; two-thirds of choristers win music scholarships to their public schools. Rozzie Bara, and her husband Clive, the fashion photographer, have two sons at Pilgrim's choir school at Winchester, one a chorister. "Choristers work like stink because they have to," Rozzie Bara says, "and very early on they

learn by self-discipline to fit in all the normal prep and sport, plus music. "In the long term our reason for choosing this education for our sons was because music is the most abiding joy; choristers become fantastic musicians, they learn to sight read fluently at nine or 10. And spiritually they are nourished, which I believe is vital in this materialistic and avaricious world."

Britain's choir schools are unique, envied by foreigners, little known to outsiders. No two are alike; a few (for example, Bristol and Magdalen College School, Oxford) are secondary schools with a junior school, but the majority are prep schools. Some are co-ed (King's College School, Cambridge), but only two (St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh, and King's School, Gloucester) admit girl choristers. Often the choristers board, even if the rest of the school is day. Two are maintained (the Minster School, Southwell, and King's School, Peterborough); most are attached to cathedrals, others to royal and collegiate chapels, or to parish churches.

The image of angelic-looking boys with faultless voices is one the schools themselves back-pedal, partly in a bid to attract more choristers at a time when the trend is away from boarding at eight. Since the war several choir schools have closed, although both York and St Paul's, in London, are planning to expand.

The voice trials (held between October and March) are "traumatic

for the parents as well as the boys", according to a mother whose son,uffed it. The trials assess not only a child's voice but their ability to adapt to the hectic and demanding timetable that includes singing and instrumental practices (most choristers play two instruments) as well as making regular recordings, broadcasts and being televised. Even the youngest lead high-profile lives. But on closer inspection they turn out to be very normal indeed — they work and play hard and they are almost always exceptionally good all-rounders. "Academically there is no finer brain training," Mrs Bara maintains.

King's, Cambridge, Pilgrim's and Westminster Abbey Choir School are reckoned to have the busiest choristers, with Westminster constantly on the alert for special services. "I look at the obituaries first thing every day in *The Times*," says the headmaster. In the 17th century many London choirboys were also expected to act the female parts at London theatres, and in the early years of Queen Victoria's reign the choristers at King's College, Cambridge, were employed as assassins. Nowadays choristers are paid for engagements as professionals, and often the money goes towards reductions in fees: some are educated free.

Travelling is an important part of their life. The day St John's College

School, Cambridge, broke up for the holidays, the choristers set off on a tour of Canada and will return only on Christmas Eve.

If spending Christmas at school sounds Dickensian, in some ways it is... with tangible good will and cheer, exchanges of presents with bishop and archbishop, parties with deans, and teas with canons. "They have at least three or four Christmas lunches before the real thing," according to Michael Blew, headmaster of Salisbury Cathedral Choir School. There is a tradition at Salisbury for the parents of the head chorister to invite the parents of all the other choristers to lunch on Christmas Day. At Pilgrim's, parents take cold turkey, salads and mince pies and join forces for one huge lunch party. "The fathers all bring lots of wine," Clive Bara explains. "Afterwards — rather red in the face — we go to the cathedral for Evensong, before bringing the boys home."

The minus side for parents of choristers, says Mrs Bara, is that "you give up your freedom to some extent". Her eldest son, Henry, an ex-Pilgrim chorister who won a music scholarship to Eton, felt that for the pupil the only disadvantage is that "it is not cool to be a chorister and you are made to feel square".

This year, *Matins* is to be televised at St George's Chapel, Windsor — but the choristers will sleep through the midnight service "to avoid a yawn", in the morning, explains their headmaster, George Hill.

"It's wonderful seeing the Royal Family close up," says 13-year-old Ben Turner, a deputy head chorister at St George's School. "This is my last Christmas here in prep school — I'd like to stay on for just one more."

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Husbands to a T

Why has Denis Thatcher become an inspiration to a small circle of American men?



Horner: it's a touchy subject

No photograph of Denis Thatcher adorns the desk of Charles E. Horner, founder of the Denis Thatcher Society in Washington DC.

"We've never met him and we don't know much about him. We'd like to believe that he plays a very important role behind the scenes, but actually we doubt it," Horner laughs.

The society does not go in for hero-worship. It was started, not so much out of admiration for Denis Thatcher as in empathy with him, by Horner and several other Washington husbands who have one thing in common: they all have spouses more prominent, or more powerful, than themselves.

In a city currently obsessed with supportive political wives, Horner is taking a stand, albeit tongue in cheek, for the growing band of political husbands content to take a back seat to ambitious wives. An associate director of the United States Information Agency, he seems an unlikely candidate for such a role but his wife — Constance J. Horner — is head of the United States Office of Personnel Management and one of the most powerful women in Washington. Horner's friend and fellow member, Dr Chester E. Finn Jr (an Assistant Secretary of Education) is married to Lieut-Col Renu Virmani, a high-powered pathologist at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

"This is a touchy subject," Horner sighs. "Not many men are strong enough to admit to membership. Even though the disparity in the eminences of Dr Finn and his wife is not as great as that between my wife and mine, he claims he qualifies because she doesn't even use his name."

"But then he brought out this book and started going on television and we warned him he'd better lower his profile or we'd drop him."

He vividly remembers the moment the society first took shape. "It was when I received a letter addressed to Mr and Mrs Constance Horner." He realized that his was not an isolated phenomenon, and the

enthusiasm and messages of support he has had since evolving the concept of the Denis Thatcher Society have convinced him, he says, straight-faced, that he is "responding to some deep primal fear" in men.

"What is not clear is what enhances the status of the male. Do they like to say, when they're having lunch at one of those clubs that exclude women, and they're asked 'And what does your wife do?' 'She doesn't do anything, she's at home'." He minces these words, oozing sarcasm. "Or do they like to say, 'Well, she's a partner in...?' Most sensible men would encourage

'Not many men will admit to membership'

that because they understand that deep down it enhances their own status."

Horner and his wife have two children, sons aged 18 and 13; ask whose was the shoulder the boys most often cried on, and he becomes surprisingly serious — and angry. "None of

this presupposes that husbands are supposed to step into the void. That's an absurd and recent conceit.

"Do you value this in your mate, that he appears brandishing a wooden spoon and saying, 'Let me just whip up this soufflé?' No, deep down you would have nothing but contempt for such a fellow!"

"The point of all this is that it ought to be possible for women to do what they do without these silly alterations in the traditional male role. The stronger the male figure is the better it works out."

"There's a fundamental error here," he continues, "when people think that successful women have to come out of this stupid left-wing pseudo-political culture. It's not true. None of the strong women I know believe in it."

The real test of the power-shift relationship, Horner says, will come when the children of such marriages grow up.

"Will they want their kids to have 'real mothers' who stay at home? Or will they feel they have to marry a graduate of the Yale Law School? I mean, if your mother's a famous lawyer, can you take home a girl who says, 'I just want to bake cookies for my children?' What's the situation if you're Margaret Thatcher's daughter-in-law? Diane Burgdorf, we agree, looks as if she'd rather bake cookies than jump into the political frying pan."

For the moment the society has no headed notepaper, no newsletter and no official meetings. "By definition we could not admit women, so our club would be *de facto* discriminatory and people might sue us," its president says cautiously.

Neither are there any immediate plans to invite Britain's under-illuminated husbands into the fold. But he concedes: "We might like to hold a meeting in London some time — in a pub somewhere near 10 Downing Street." Denis Thatcher would, of course, be invited.

Victoria McKee

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Don't bank on it...

The number of people who claim that when they were young all they got for Christmas was an orange and a quarter pound of striped ham-bone will be going through the roof during this particular festive season.

This is because they will have heard the news that French teenagers are to have access to 3,000 "kiddy cash points" where they will be able to draw up to £200 a week on their very own kiddy credit card.

If the fact that 100,000 French parents have already bought this beautiful bit of plastic for their little ones outrages you, let me make you feel a whole lot worse by revealing that throughout this year the favourite birthday treat for certain British 10-year-olds was to be driven with a carload of their friends to a seaside pier where they were then given £50 (yes, folks, five-oh-pounds) to spend on the slot machines. And to think that when my own children were at the Twirls and jolly stage I used to complain about the cost of hiring a conjurer.

The excuse made by those who take every opportunity to



bankroll their babies is that you only learn the value of money by having some — the hands-on approach, as it were. The Paris-based bank Credit Agricole which runs the kiddy cash points also produces a kit which shows children how to become investors, and the bank's officials infiltrate schools to offer financial advice. Who needs all this? Certainly not the children I know, who absorb information about venture trading as soon as they can read all the way through their first Peter and Jane book.

I came across a small boy who had won a gold bracelet in a pre-Christmas raffle. Did he wrap it up and put it under the tree for his mother? Did he heck. Did he swap it for a train set? He found the suggestion laughable. He is keeping it as an investment and no doubt, when the time is right, he will trade it for shares in a small

but promising international company which makes electronic tapestries.

What will become of all these currency-cute kids? I should like to think that they will grow up healthy, wealthy and wise, unlike the orange-and-striped-ham-bone brigade (to which I belong) who are baffled by the share index, change the subject when the talk gets around to pension schemes and get into a muck sweat at the thought of filling in an income-tax form. We get poorer by the minute as marriages break down, house prices go up and dreams disappear. Yet we cope. Forty holds no fears for the adult who, as a child, knew that she could never afford that doggie in the window.

The younger generation, used to serious money from an early age, might put up a better fight in their personal war on want. This can be the only argument for the kiddy cash point. Should it fall flat on its face, we are in for a morally bankrupt time, for we will not have produced a breed of thoughtful economists, we will have brought up a load of spoiled brats.

Gifts to set the pulse racing

The stiff upper lip is not a remedy that carries credence in California, where hypochondria has been elevated to an art form and "hot house people" searching for the Fountain of Youth carry spray bottles of mineral water in the meantime to plump out their wrinkles.

But this Christmas the British hypochondriac, too, can be cosseted as never before. The *Phillips Blood Pressure Meter* (£74.99) allows you to keep abreast of the fluctuations in your pressure in the privacy of your own home, while *Relaxation Tapes* (£5.95) help to keep you calm.

Asprey's recommends a genuine *Corum Doctor's Watch* to help you read your pulse at a moment's notice: £2,500 for ladies' or gents' models. Or perhaps a *Sterling Silver Pill Container* shaped like a miniature suitcase for £195, to hold the supposedly rejuvenating *Korean Ginseng* or *Royal Jelly* tablets available from most health food stores for about £10 for a month's supply.

Tiffany's, not to be outdone, suggests a *Sterling Silver Thermometer and Pencil Holder* for the pocket (£200). And don't forget the *Sterile Medical Equipment Packs* which are the paranoid traveller's compulsory companion these days: everything which might be needed for a possible blood transfusion except the blood, for £9.80 from MASTA, the Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad, at the London School of Hygiene. They come in a plastic case, but you could put them in a lovely leather one like Asprey's *Travelling Pill Case* for £20.

The Flexi Hot Mate

Hypochondriacs are a present problem — what do you give the people who think they already have everything?



(£19.95) from The Back Store in London can be strapped to almost any part of the body to keep it warm, through an asexually harmless chemical reaction, for up to four and a half hours — great for winter sports people.

For those who want to live forever, Guerlain's Long-Term Rehydrator puffs out wrinkles for £45. If the Biotherm Wrinkle Prevention Cream (£9.95) fails to do its job, The Dreamland Heating Pad (£14.99) also keeps aching muscles warm and supple, and muscles warm and supple, and muscles warm and supple.

Sweets made without refined sugar or artificial

sweeteners, and enjoying the unlikely name of *Mint Bimbos*, cost 49p a packet from health food shops and promise that they will not cause tooth decay.

Gifts your Californian friends might appreciate this Christmas, should you be dropping over, are a *Vitalizer* spray, said to be "deadly to the rhinovirus" — the common cold, to you and me — at £110 (about £100) and a *Bipolar Electrostatic Home Precipitator* — a tiny device that claims to remove the soot from the air that otherwise would have been in your lungs (£99). Or you could think about a *talking fitness monitor* (£229.95) — "cosches you to higher levels of performance" with its digitalized voice.

Film stars preoccupied with keeping their teeth white to gleam in their perpetual

California tans might well appreciate the *E-Z Flosser*, an ingenious little device designed to hold the dental floss and save all the heavy work (£10), or the Mouthbrush — super-large to brush the gums as well (£8). Over on the other, equally neurotic, coast, the recent New York End Fair produced the *Disment-bear*, the stress relief teddy you can tear apart when you're feeling violent and put back together, without ever having to say you're sorry.

Hammacher Schlemmer, New York's most famous gadget emporium, boasts a host of gifts for the hypochondriacally inclined — which you can order, if you like, on your Visa, Access, Diners Club, Carte Blanche or American Express card (write to Hammacher Schlemmer, Midwest Operations Centre, 11013 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, Ohio, for a free catalogue or phone 0101 212 421 9000). The *Home Water Distiller* provides bacteria-free water, also free of rust, chlorine and other undesirable impurities, for \$299.50. The *Travel Environmental Sound Machine* (\$99.50) makes soothing surf and rain sounds to help you sleep wherever you may be.

For those who get stiff while driving, the *Massaging Car Seat Cover* (\$74.95) offers instant muscle relaxation when plugged into the car cigarette lighter, and for the totally paranoid there is a *Telephone Voice Gender Changer* (\$499.50) which will alter the timbre of the voice from female to male to confuse obscene callers. This comes complete with a programmable dog bark.

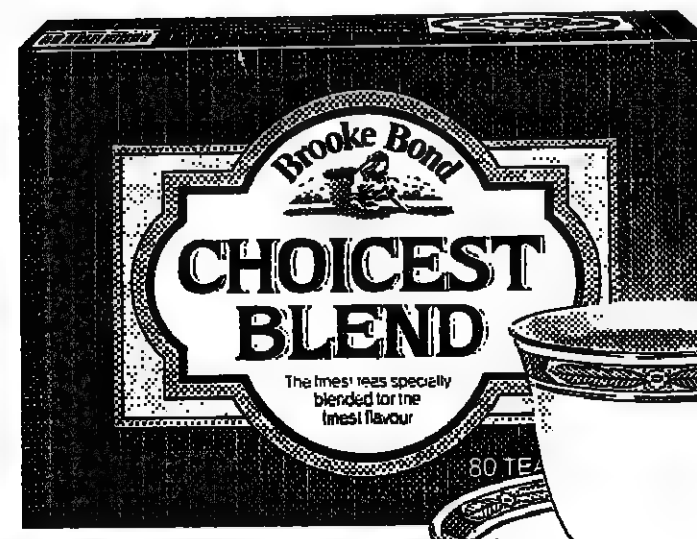
God bless us, every one.

Alexandra King

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TOMORROW

Baubles, bangles and bows: Fashion Editor Liz Smith on jewellery and other gems



YOU WON'T FIND A FINER TEA

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
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THEATRE LONDON

★ **ACTING SHAKESPEARE:** Ian McKellen plays Hamlet, Falstaff, Romeo, Juliet and many more in award-winning solo show. All proceeds to the London Lighthouse AIDS Hospice. Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-838 4401). Tue: 8pm, Fri: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm and 5-11pm, £4-14.

★ **BALES IN THE WOODS:** See **CHILDREN'S**.

★ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST:** New version in trad style by David Croft. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, WC2 (01-838 4401). Tue: 8pm, Fri: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm and 5-11pm, £4-14.

★ **CHILDREN'S:** Traditional version with Suzi Quatro as the prince, Beesley as a black Cinderella and Paul J. Medford (ex-Kelvin from *Smileys*) as the fairy godmother. Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Road, NW1 (01-388 1384). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm and 5-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **DANDEROUS OBSESSION:** Dandero and Jerry Bullock in J. N. C. P. psychological thriller set in a convent. Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 2665). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **THE FINEST HOUR:** Nicholas Lyndhurst as a timid tourist in the US struck dumb with nerves. Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-838 3878). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **LETITIA AND LOVAGE:** Maggie Smith and Margaret Tyacke waging war against the modern world in Peter Shaffer's new comedy. Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 3687). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS:** Charlton Heston takes over the role of Sir Thomas More in the strongly cast transfer from Chichester. Savoy Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-838 8888). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **PETER PAN:** Barrie with music George Cole with the hook, and Lita Stutzman as the Never-Never Land. Cambridge Theatre, Euston Road, WC2 (01-379 5259). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **SEPARATION:** David Suchet and Saskia Reeves as playwright and actress in Tom Kempinski's two-handers, transferred from Hampstead. Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (01-830 2578). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **SPECULATIONS:** The RSC's answer to *Shogun*: the class struggle in a remote village. The Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-838 8891). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE:** Michael Gambon magnificent in transfer of Alan Ayckbourn's NT production. Aldwych Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-838 6047). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **THE WIZARD OF OZ:** Imelda Staunton sets off on the Yellow Brick Road. RSC Christmas show with all the celebrated songs plus others cut from the film. Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-838 8891). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** ★ *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*: Queens Theatre (01-734 1166). ★ *The Business of Murder*: Mayfair Theatre (01-838 3038). ★ *Cats*: New London Theatre (01-400 0072). ★ *Chorus*: Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 8851). ★ *Falsetto*: Shaftesbury Theatre (01-838 3878). ★ *42nd Street*: Drury Lane Theatre Royal (01-836 6108/9). ★ *High Society*: Victoria Palace Theatre (01-834 1317). ★ *La La Land*: La La Land Theatre (01-836 6111). ★ *Me and My Girl*: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7914). ★ *Nunsense*: Nunsense Theatre (01-836 2238). ★ *Phantom of the Opera*: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-838 2244). ★ *Ram Foul Play*: Criterion Theatre (01-838 3038). ★ *Serious Money*: Wyndham's Theatre (01-838 8851). ★ *Starlight Express*: Victoria Palace Theatre (01-836 6108/9). ★ *And Then There Were None*: Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122).

★ **OUT OF TOWN**

★ **DRYDOCK:** ★ *The Servant of Two Masters*: Musical version of Goldoni's masterpiece. Warehouse, 62 D'Almeida Road, East Croydon (01-880 4000). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **OXFORD:** ★ *The Music of the Spheres*: Adapted by Peter Bernstein from the Coventry company. Church of St Mary the Virgin, High Street (01-838 3878). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **STRATFORD:** ★ *Twelfth Night*: Stratford-upon-Avon production in Greek maze setting. Anthony Sher in an eye-opening Mahalia. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (01-838 3878). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

★ **STRATFORD:** ★ *The Jew of Malta*: New production of Christopher Marlowe's tragedy, directed by Barry Kyle, last staged by the RSC in 1965. Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (01-838 3878). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.



The release of the *Screamers* film, in October, prompted a familiar pattern of fawning critical acclaim followed by "disappointing" sales. For a band so consistently tested for success it is proving a long, hard road to the top. Part of the problem is the trio's reluctance to dilute a style of performance that tastes like neat whisky compared with the baby-milk of so much that currently passes for "rock". The group's shows can be wildly erratic. At the Town & Country last year Billy Carter (above) threw down his guitar half-way through a backstage set and

GALLERIES

STEPHEN FARTHING: A survey of recent figurative paintings, called *Mus Accipiens*, by a contemporary on contemporary life. Leicester Square, WC2 (01-838 3878). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

INCHANGA SCHOOL: A charity auction of Zulu children's art and crafts. George Hillyer, 100 Euston Road, NW1 (01-388 1384). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL: A new 28-foot high sculpture, called *St George and the Dragon*, is now on public view. Kildare House, Dorset Rise (off Blackfriars Road), London EC4.

EDWARD MIDDLETON: A career survey of an influential painter and teacher who died in July. Magpie Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield (01-474 7262). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

PAST AND PRESENT: A fascinating exhibition showing how contemporary artists like Leon Kossoff learn by drawing from the Old Masters. Queens Art Gallery, Queen Victoria Square, Hull (0482 227250). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

HELEN KEATE: Paintings, watercolours and prints. Bee Art Gallery, 21 Dean Street, London W1 (01-437 2552). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

THE SOUTH BANK PICTURE: Paintings, drawings, watercolours, prints and objects about London by professional and amateur artists in open competition. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (01-921 0600). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

SOVIET PROPAGANDA PLATES: Hand-painted ceramics bearing revolutionary slogans since 1920. Kesteven and Wensley, 30 Jermy Street, London SW1 (01-830 2524). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

SOVIET VOICES: A selection of posters from 1917-1945 by some of the greatest Soviet graphic designers. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 (01-735 8822). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

CONVERSATIONS: Pairs of paintings, selected from the Arts Council's collection, suggesting parallel between artists as different as Carl Weight and Ken Kutt. City Museum and Art Gallery, Foregate Street, Worcester (01-925 2571). Tue: 8pm, Sat: 8.30-9.30pm, £3-10.

JEWISH EAST END - ROOTS IN TIMELESS STREETS: An Aldgate tube, 11am, £3.

ST THOMAS BECKETT'S STRANGE STORY: meet St Paul's tube, 11am, £3.

BLAD MONKS AND NAUGHTY WIVES: meet St Paul's tube, 11am, £3.

THE LONDON OF JACK THE RIPPER: meet Whitechapel tube, 7.30pm, £2.50.

FAMOUS SHERLOCK HOLMES DETECTIVE TRAIL: meet Baker Street tube, 7.30pm, £2.50.

OTHER EVENTS

BARBICAN CAROLS: The Barbican Boys Singers - a concert of choice of 11-year-olds - sing carols. Barbican Theatre Foyer, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-838 4411). 5.30-7.05pm, free.

ROYAL EXCHANGE: Priority booking open for members of American Express by the Regency Exchange, and Miller's Art & Photo with John Tovey, Feb-April. Public booking from Jan 15. Royal Exchange, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4 (01-838 3181, 01-240 5255).

ENO SPRING SEASON: General booking open today for January to April programmes. EnO Theatre, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4 (01-838 3181, 01-240 5255).

CHRISTMAS SHOW: Night by Christmas Pops Association with carols, prints and drawings. Ends Wed. EnO Theatre, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 (01-486 0141).

EIGHT ARTISTS FROM BELFAST: Exhibition including work by Stephen O'Donnell and Kathleen Farnham. City Arts, 75 East Road, London N1 (01-253 2048).

GEORGE ROUSSEAU: Large photo of paintings and installations made in his workshop. Ends Wed. Riverside Studios, Cross Road, London SE1 (01-741 2251).

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

LAST CHANCE

BOND WINNERS

WORD-WATCHING

FOR CHILDREN

ART GALLERIES

TO PLACE YOUR TRAVEL ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES

TRADE ADVERTISERS

PRIVATE ADVERTISERS

YOU MAY USE YOUR ACCESS, AMEX, DINERS OR VISA CARD

CONCERTS

EXHIBITIONS

OPERA & BALLET

THEATRES

CONCERTS

EXHIBITIONS

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THEATRES

CONCERTS

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceebus AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
- 6.30 Clark and McCulloch in Kidding the Crown Around 6.55 Weather.
- 7.00 Breakfast Time with Sally Magnusson and Jeremy Paxman. Includes the national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15 weather at 7.35, 7.55 and 8.25.
- 8.40 Open Air with BBC Northern Ireland's Youth Department. To choose a cartoon or talk to the special guests ring 061-614 0424. 8.45 Regional news and weather.
- 9.00 News and weather followed by Neighbours (r). 9.25 Open Air. A chance to talk to Philip Schofield and Anna Home, head of BBC Children's Television. Includes news and weather at 10.00.
- 10.25 News and weather followed by Play School, presented by Elizabeth Watts and Robert Kitchin. 10.50 Open Air. A report on the morning's phone calls.
- 10.55 Five to Eleven. A Christmas reading by Laurence Olivier 11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Two names: John Gordon Burns for a typing factor contest 11.20 Why Don't You...? with the new Belfast gang 11.45 Open Air links Belfast with London.
- 12.00 News and weather followed by Daytime Live. Today's edition of the magazine programme includes True Love with seasonal culinary advice 12.55 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00 One O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Weather 1.30 Neighbours. Mike, Charlene and Scott are reunited on Manly Beach 1.50 Going for Gold. The first semifinal of the European general knowledge quiz presented by Henry Kelly.

BBC2

- 9.00 Ceebus.
- 11.50 Film: Yaman and His Maids (1934, b/w) starring Johnny Weissmuller and Maureen O'Sullivan. Two hunters threaten the idyllic existence of Tarzan and Jane. Directed by Cedric Gibbons. 1.30 Songs of Praise (r). (Caption)
- 2.00 News and weather followed by American Basketball. The Los Angeles Lakers meet the Boston Celtics (r).
- 2.45 News and weather followed by Fred Astaire. The second of two documentaries celebrating the career of the late entertainer. 3.40 News, regional news and weather.
- 3.50 Film: Three Little Words (1950) starring Fred Astaire, Vera-Ellen and Red Stewart. A musical about the 1930s songwriting team of Bert Kalmar and Harry Ruby. Directed by Richard Thorpe. (Caption)
- 5.30 Jack High. The Gateway Masters Tennis Tournament. Film: Forlades Planet (1965) starring Walter Pidgeon and Anne Francis. Science fiction adventure about a spaceship.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am. Cartoons and other family entertainment including: between 6.00 and 6.30, Good Morning Britain.
- 6.30 Thomas news headlines.
- 6.30 Puddle Line. Puppet series presented by Neil Jones 8.48 Video it! Cops Snow 8.48 at what will be eaten and received as presents 100 years from now 10.15 Children's Christmas Preview with Gary Terzza and Debbie Shora 10.30 News headlines 10.30 Santa Barbara.
- 11.00 Film: Wives and the Poet and Friends. With Danny's animated version of A.A. Milne stories narrated by Sebastian Cabot 12.00 The Sullivan. Drama serial about an Australian family during the 1940s.
- 12.30 News with John Snow 12.50 Thomas news.
- 1.00 Film: Battle of Midway (1970) starring Charlton Heston and Henry Fonda. A dramatic war film about the 1942 battle in the Pacific when the US Navy's fleet defeated the Japanese fleet.
- 1.30 News headlines 1.30 The Young Doctors. Medical drama series set in a large Australian city hospital.
- 4.00 Disney at Christmas. Two cartoons. The Womans and Three for Breakfast (r).
- 4.15 Film: Strength 87 presented by Douglas Donnell. Geoff Capes of Great Britain, Bill Kenwright of the United States and Ian Stanger of the United States in a test of strength in the grounds of Hurley Castle near Aberdeen.
- 4.15 Blockbusters. A quiz programme for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness.
- 4.45 News with Fiona Armstrong 5.00 Thomas news.
- 5.30 Goidor. Back to Goidor. Bob Goidor returns to drought-stricken

CHANNEL 4

- 8.25 After Dark. Has the Media Taken Over the World? John Underwood presents a studio discussion. Among those taking part are David Mervin, Gail Serrano and former intelligence officer Alex Mansion (r).
- 12.00 Business Daily.
- 12.30 A Winter Story. A cartoon from Wales about a crafty fox (r). 1.00 Sesame Street. Learning series for pre-schoolers.
- 2.00 Allplanets. The first of three programmes about German sharpshooters created in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Featured today is Michael Palmer's work of 1480 for the church of St Wolfgang am Wolfgangsee in Austria (r).
- 2.30 Film: The Desert Song (1953) starring Robert Taylor and Gordon Macrae. Musical set in the North African desert about a dashing leader of the Rif who falls in love while fighting a vicious sheik. Directed by Bruce Humphries.
- 4.30 Countdown.
- 6.00 The Munsters (b/w). Vintage American comedy series about a ghoulish family.

A breath of fresh air

TELEVISION CHOICE



Peter Blake (left), Belinda Lang and Ralph Bates in the extended edition of Dear John, on BBC1, 8.10pm

"You're a colleague from John's school?" "Yes." "What do you teach?" "Children." Well, it is nearly Christmas and this little gem comes from the 50-minute seasonal edition of Dear John (BBC1, 8.10pm). Stretching a sitcom beyond its customary half hour is usually a recipe for disaster but in this case it works well. I would even say that it is an improvement. Restricted to its single set of the 1-2-1 Club for the divorced and separated, Dear John often seemed static and repetitive. Here, the writer John Sullivan opens the show out and lets it breathe. Paddling round his flat like Tony Hancock, with shoulders hunched and the fatalism of the eternal loser, John (Ralph Bates) excuses his feeble decorations ("the people in Norway forgot to send me a tree this year") and faces the prospect of spending Christmas Day by himself. All his charms would love to see him but they are already committed. But he won't really be

alone, will he? No, he lies, he has had dozens of invitations. Then a broken leg on a Rugby field leads to a call from his ex-wife and an offer he cannot easily refuse. Sullivan's script is hardly a laugh a minute but it has a nicely worked out comic logic which wraps the story up in a tidy, though unexpected, conclusion. On the way, it gives a thankfully short shrift to the tiresomely

unfunny characters and developments the more promising ones. Chief among these are the droling Ralph with his motor cycle combination and the mother's boy Eric, whose after ego, the John Travolta lookalike Kirk, materializes in the nick of time to save the said Ralph from a fate too horrible to contemplate.

Peter Waymark

Radio 1

MTW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below). News on the hour from 6.30am until 6.55pm, then at 10.00 and 12.00 midnight. 5.30am Adrian John's Christmas Revue 7.00 Mike Smith's Breakfast Show 8.30 Simon Bates 12.30 News 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00 Steve Wright's Christmas Party at London Zoo 6.00 Newsbeat 8.45 Bruno Brookes 7.30 Jinx Long 10.00-12.00 John Peel. VHF Stereo 10.00 and 12.00-4.00am As Radio 2.

Radio 2

MTW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below). News on the hour. Sports Round-Up 5.00am. 4.00am Colin Berry 5.30 Ray Maccan 7.30 Donnan 8.30am News 10.00am David Jacobs 2.00 Gloria Hunniford (backstage) 3.00am Johnnie Walker 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am 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Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET
(Change on week)

FT 30 Share
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FT-SE 100
1717.0 (+65.4)

Bargains
28077 (23258)

USM (Datastream)
133.49 (+4.8)

THE POUND
(Change on week)

US dollar
1.8260 (-0.0125)
W German mark
2.9837 (-0.0149)
Trade-weighted
75.5 (-0.6)

US NOTEBOOK

Consumer spending fall boosts bonds

From Maxwell Newton
New York

The United States may be on the verge of a breakthrough into zero growth of real consumption followed by a sharp fall of imports. Sensing a stronger dollar and a victory over inflation, the bond market rallied strongly on Friday.

The December quarter may be the first showing a decisive break with the growth of real personal consumption spending that has fuelled three-quarters of the US economic recovery since the fourth quarter of 1982.

Estimates based on October and November sales data for retail sales and for car sales indicate real personal consumption may fall at an annual rate of 2 to 3 per cent.

October-November real retail sales were down 2.5 per cent on the September quarter average, while car sales in the first seven 10-day periods of the current quarter were running 25 per cent below the third quarter average.

To add to the uncertainty, initial unemployment insurance claims rose sharply in the week of December 5.

The wild card is a boom in plant and equipment spending. These expenditures, flat since the third quarter of 1984, suddenly took off in the third quarter of this year, rising at an annual rate of about 20 per cent with a further rise in 1988 expected at more than 7 per cent.

This is a reflection of the growing confidence of US exporters. Exports of goods and services rose 11.5 per cent in the year to the third quarter, almost twice the 6 per cent rise of import volumes. In the third quarter alone, export volume rose an astonishing 23.7 per cent a year.

Such achievements are obscured by the continuing boom in imports. But if, as seems likely, real personal consumption growth has turned negative, imports, already overloaded with stocks, will be cutting back sharply.

Domestic inflation is certainly not a threat to US exporters' plans. In November, producer (wholesale) prices were unchanged and the consumer price index rose 0.3 per cent. Wages growth is very subdued. The Commodity Research Bureau index of commodity futures prices is below the level of February 1985, when the immense dollar devaluation began.

An important reason for this so far successful resistance to the potentially inflationary effects of the massive devaluation has been the freeze on money growth by the Fed from January.

The annual growth rate of money M2, 11.1 per cent in the third quarter of 1986, had fallen to 3 per cent in this third quarter. Money growth in the fourth quarter has remained negligible in "real" terms as the Fed has clawed back all the cash splurged in the post-October 19 panic.

The extreme nature of the Fed's policy has led to a campaign by monetarists. Mr Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, has said the policy will lead to recession.

The monetarists have always supported a freely fluctuating dollar and they detest the Louvre accord.

The underpinnings for a much stronger dollar in 1988 are being laid, and for a highly aggressive American invasion of world markets in 1988 and 1989.

As the perception of weakening demand and negligible inflation spreads, interest rates are once again coming down.

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Texaco settles Pennzoil fight

Four-year dispute ends in record \$5.5bn deal

By Richard Thomson

The four-year legal battle between Texaco Inc, the US oil giant, and Pennzoil over the acquisition of Getty Oil ended yesterday when Texaco agreed to pay a record \$5.5 billion (£3 billion) to settle the \$10.3 billion dispute.

The out-of-court settlement was reached on Saturday after a marathon 48-hour negotiating session between lawyers representing Texaco and Pennzoil.

It includes \$3 billion to be paid directly to Pennzoil. A further \$2.5 billion will go to Texaco's creditors who had remained unpaid when the company filed for protective bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code last April to escape enforcement of a \$10.3 billion court judgement against it.

The settlement will be filed in the bankruptcy court where it will have to be approved by the court and Texaco's shareholders.

It ends the battle over Texaco's purchase of Getty Oil in January 1984.

A Texas civil court jury awarded Pennzoil \$10.3 billion in damages earlier this

year when it found that Texaco had wrongfully interfered with an earlier agreement Pennzoil had with Getty Oil to buy the company itself. Texaco filed for bankruptcy after the decision.

The settlement is a coup for Mr Carl Icahn, the financier and chairman of Trans World Airlines Inc, who controls 12.3 per cent of Texaco and owns a block of Pennzoil stock. Together, the two stakes are worth more than \$500 million.

After the companies had repeatedly failed to reach a settlement, Mr Icahn took matters into his own hands and travelled to Pennzoil's headquarters in Houston.

He persuaded the chairman, Mr J Hugh Liedtke, to drop his settlement demand from \$4 billion to \$3 billion.

Mr Icahn was helped by increasing shareholder pressure on the Texaco management to settle following its decision to apply for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The prospect of an imminent settlement to the dispute caused a sharp rise in the value of both companies'

shares last Friday. Texaco closed 2½ points up at 38½ while Pennzoil rose 4½ points to 79½.

Mr Alfred DeCrane, chairman of Texaco, said that the company would have to finance some of the settlement and payment to creditors out of asset sales. These would form part of a larger scale restructuring of the company to help it emerge from bankruptcy.

Restructuring measures would include the redemption of highly priced debt as well as sales of assets.

Mr DeCrane said that once out of bankruptcy Texaco, the third largest US oil company, would be able to start competing again with others in the oil industry on equal terms.

He added that the company had not yet decided whether to reinstate the 75 cents a share quarterly dividend which was cancelled when it filed for bankruptcy.

Experts believe the asset sales could include Texaco Canada, worth about \$2 billion and its 50 per cent stake in Caltex, a joint venture with Chevron Corp, worth \$3 billion.

Britoil will press Panel to bar bid on two counts

By Our City Staff

Britoil, the subject of an unwelcome £2.27 billion bid from British Petroleum, will today submit its arguments to the Takeover Panel on why the bid should be disallowed.

The full Panel, which will meet tomorrow to consider the offer, written submissions to the Panel are due at midday today.

NM Rothschild & Co, acting for Britoil, and J Henry Schroder Wagg, for BP, were finalising their submissions yesterday.

Because of the Government's golden share in Britoil, designed to prevent any bidder from gaining overall control of the company, the Panel decision is seen as breaking new ground.

NM Rothschild is expected to emphasize Rule 10 and Principle 3 of the Takeover Code.

Rule 10 states that an offer

cannot become unconditional unless shares carrying more than 50 per cent of the voting rights have been acquired, or agreement has been reached to acquire them. In theory, a golden share which prevents control of the board changing hands limits the acquisition of voting rights to less than 50 per cent.

Principle 3 says that an offer

Analysis 20

should be announced for a company "only when the offeror has every reason to believe that it can and will continue to be able to implement the offer." Britoil's adviser will argue that BP was not in this position when it announced its bid on Friday, because of the golden share arrangements.

But Mr Bill Samuel of Schroders said yesterday that the key element of the Panel

decision was the acceptance conditions contained in the BP offer, and whether the golden share would be included or excluded from the 50 per cent requirement.

Mr Samuel added that there had been extensive discussions between BP and Takeover Panel officials before Friday's bid announcement. He said that the bid had been launched after the "careful and responsible consideration" required under the Takeover Code.

Meanwhile, the Stock Exchange will this week examine the circumstances surrounding the Treasury's announcement on Friday that it would be using the golden share to stop BP gaining control.

Some market-makers did not immediately realize that the announcement was official because it was not carried on the Stock Exchange Topic information system.

3i seeks quick B-Cal decision

By Graham Serjeant, Financial Editor

Investors in Industry, the dominant shareholder in British Caledonian, is anxious for the B-Cal board to make a decision before Christmas on the rival offers from British Airways and the Scandinavian Airlines System. This has put pressure on Mr Jan Carlzon, SAS chairman, to improve his offer of £110 million for 23.5 per cent of B-Cal.

Mr Helge Lindberg, the SAS negotiator, has returned to Stockholm for talks, which are

likely to lead to an increase in the offer for a minority stake in B-Cal early this week.

The Scandinavian airline, however, is worried that it has little room for manoeuvre.

The Civil Aviation Authority agreed that the offer SAS finally formulated would not constitute foreign control of B-Cal but stressed this judgement would not necessarily apply to any alternative form.

There is some anxiety at BA that 3i may try to conduct a

last-minute auction. BA sent out its revised offer to B-Cal shareholders on Friday.

It has not ruled out a further increase in its £200 million bid for the whole of B-Cal. If the SAS offer is substantially increased, however, BA may opt to step up its political pressure against the SAS deal.

BA has already demanded CAA hearings on possible removals of B-Cal's route licenses should the SAS deal proceed.

USM REVIEW

'Bobby Bear' tests his theory

By Michael Clark

Mr Bob Morton, chairman of the fully-quoted Burgess Group, was not caught on the hop like so many others by the stock market crash. He claims to have seen it coming for some time.

His views on the outlook for the market remain pessimistic, earning him the nickname "Bobby Bear." He is convinced the bear market still has some way to run but will provide him with some lucrative business ventures.

Last week he decided to put this theory to the test. Casting aside the recent crisis, he took time off from Burgess to announce the launch of his latest company on the Unlisted Securities Market, Hatfield Estates, the building contractor and property developer, where dealings start today.

Hatfield is Mr Morton's second USM listing. The first was Norank, which used to manufacture record display cases for shops, and first came to the USM three years ago at 90p. It was eventually taken over by Spong Holdings in a £10 million deal valuing Norank's shares at 230p each. Now Mr Morton is hoping for similar success with Hatfield.

Guidehouse Securities is placing 750,000 shares (10 per cent) in Hatfield at 100p a share, valuing the entire company at £7.5 million.

The group hopes to raise £580,000 from the placing and £475,000 will be retained by the company while the remaining £105,000 goes to existing shareholders. Mr Morton has decided to hang on to all his 1.97 million shares,

amounting to 26.35 per cent of the total. Hatfield's interests in the building industry extend to both the public and private sectors. The bulk of its property developments are in and around North London and Hertfordshire.

The group is currently undertaking building work worth an estimated £3 million and expects to attract an extra £1.5 million of business from its property developments. It is also in the running for work on the Lairage site at Hitchin, Hertfordshire, worth another £3 million.

The business is a cyclical one and although Hatfield has now undertaken several major developments, none is due

USM prices 22

for completion in the current financial year to August 31. Perhaps it might explain the group's erratic trading record. Pretax profits in 1983 stood at £76,000 and fell to just £20,000 the following year only to recover to £425,000 in 1985, then slump to £126,000 in 1986.

In the year to last August, as it paved the way for its USM quote, it turned in its best-ever performance with pretax profits of £1.61 million. The directors have decided against making a profit forecast for the current year.

The USM has been instrumental since its inception seven years ago in helping to develop new industries by creating "mini sectors" within which those

companies can flourish. In the early days, the USM was made up mainly of oil companies. After a few years the emphasis switched to computer and high-tech firms. Other sectors have since been created including, believe it or not, funeral directors.

According to Mr Geoffrey Douglas, analyst at Hoare Govett, the broker, this can offer major opportunities to "the first few companies on to the public stage," helping them with expansion via acquisition and the development of a broader business base. The latest "mini sector" to grab the attention of Mr Douglas and his USM team is the shopfit market.

He estimates that the sector is probably worth at least £750 million. The four main constituents are Havelock Europa, which recently moved up to a full quote, Campbell & Armstrong, Plumb Holdings and Sharp & Law.

All three USM companies have been hitting the takeover trail recently and last week Sharp & Law was suspended at 155p while it worked out details of another acquisition. Campbell & Armstrong bought Kaymar Industrial Furniture and Apollo Space Systems for £2.1 million last week taking the group number of acquisitions this year to three.

According to Mr Douglas, they should provide a big boost to turnover. He expects sales to rise from £6.9 million to £21 million this year followed by £41 million next time. He says the shares look cheap on a prospective p/e of 8.7, falling to below 7 next year.



Ship-shape: Cochrane's Ken Marshall and the Thornella (Photograph by Chris Harris)

Fishing launches a recovery

At about 8 o'clock this morning (depending on the vagaries of the tide in the Yorkshire Ouse), Cochrane Shipbuilders will launch the biggest trawler built in Britain for more than a decade, at its Selby yard, 70 miles from the sea.

The 126-foot Thornella, the first of a £5 million order for two trawlers from J Marr (Fishing) of Hull, one of the traditional Humber-side family fishing groups, is a sign of a modest recovery in the British fishing industry.

This recovery follows a long

decline after the loss of Icelandic fishing waters.

For Mr Ken Marshall, the managing director of Cochrane, it also marks the timely return of the yard to its traditional market, having diversified to build 32 off-shore support vessels for the then booming North Sea oil business.

"We face a constant fight for new orders," Mr Marshall says.

"The Marr ships may be based on the River Humber, but the order for them was

won in the face of fierce international competition."

He is particularly pleased to see a revival of orders from the local fishing fleet.

Cochrane, part of the North British Maritime group, has kept going better than most other yards, building anything from tugs to Isle of Wight ferries.

It still has 400 employees, is about to deliver two tugs to British owners and has orders for a further three tugs.

But it will still need more orders in six months' time.

Li to sell Cluff stake to Hutchison

Hong Kong (Renter) -

Hutchison Whampoa has said it plans to acquire from Mr Li Ka-shing, its chairman, a 14.3 per cent stake in Cluff Oil for £6.7 million. The company said it will buy 2 million ordinary shares of 25p each from Mr Li, at a cost of £2.2 million, and the entire issued share capital of and

shareholder's loans to Marino Equities for a further £4.5 million. Marino holds 4.05 million Cluff shares.

Hutchison said it will also underwrite a one-for-10 rights issue of about 4.22 million new Cluff shares at £1.18 each. The underwriting of the rights issue is conditional upon Cluff shareholders' approval. Trad-

ing in the new shares will begin on the unlisted securities market by January 31.

If Hutchison were to subscribe all of the shares under the rights issue, its interest in the enlarged share capital of Cluff will rise to 22.1 per cent. Two Hutchison directors will join the Cluff board upon completion of the rights issue.

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No boardroom division at TSB, Read says

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Sir John Read, the chairman of TSB Group, yesterday hit back at continued stories of a boardroom split at the TSB and inflated fees to be paid to Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank.

Weekend reports said that Sir John had been called in for an interview with Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, over the Lazard fees. There were suggestions that TSB directors were unhappy about the size of the fee being negotiated with Lazard by Sir John and Sir Ian Frazer, a director of both the TSB and Lazard.

"Naturally," Sir John said, "I have spoken to a very senior official at the Bank of England — though not the Governor — about the suggestion that I am involved in some price-fixing arrangement with Lazard over their fees. I brought the subject up in the course of more general discussions because it is a very serious matter, indeed. It is nonsense to suggest the Bank called me in about it."

The fee covers Lazard's handling of the £777 million purchase of Hill Samuel and the abortive £282 million bid for Hogg Robinson.

Sir John said: "No fee has finally been settled, but half a per cent is perfectly normal for

these sorts of transactions so I cannot see what all the fuss is about." It appears that the two banks are currently discussing a fee of around £3 million, well below 0.5 per cent of the combined value for the two deals.

"The suggestion that the board is against myself and Sir Ian is also nonsense," Sir John insisted. At a board meeting last Thursday, the TSB directors confirmed unanimously, both individually and collectively, their support for Sir John and Sir Ian. The two men were not present at the meeting.

"We are still considering legal action against *The Observer*, which has taken a lead in publishing these stories," Sir John said. "Saying that the board does not like my management style is one thing, but accusing me of being involved in fixing Lazard's fees is a very serious thing, indeed."

Sir John blamed the reports on an "old-guard" of TSB executives and retired executives who had not wanted the bank to be floated on the stock market, and did not like the direction in which it is now going. "It is the old guard trying to put pressure on Sir Ian and me. They are trying to hustle us," Sir John said.

EEC criticized for freight plan delay

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Common Market transport ministers have been condemned for "procrastinating" over reforms to liberalize the movement of goods in the EEC.

A meeting of the Council of Transport Ministers last week postponed until their next meeting any action on steps which transport interests view as essential to a liberalized market by 1992.

They are particularly concerned that moves to increase

the number of Community haulage permits by 40 per cent have been postponed, that government control of haulage rates is to remain, and that discussion of arrangements to allow national hauls to be carried out by non-resident companies has been deferred.

Mr Garry Turvey, director of the Freight Transport Association in Britain, said: "The meeting of the ministers made a mockery of government calls to be more European."

Oil industry shake-out could see the independents sliding

ANALYSIS

Will 1988 be the year of the great shake-out of the independent oil sector — so long predicted but never realized?

Over the years, North Sea oil assets have regularly changed hands at prices reflecting the future income flows and exploration potential of the target and the tax position of the purchaser. The final price agreed was always heavily dependent on oil price expectations.

In the spring of 1986, after the oil price crash, the independent oil companies were much cheaper than at present. But then, the whole sector was in turmoil and the natural predators of the independents, their larger competitors, felt uncertain enough about their own futures to be cautious about making a move.

In any case, had a bidder emerged, it is doubtful whether there were any real bargains. Put to the test, single figure oil prices would be viewed as purely temporary.

The larger oil companies, for their part, have long been curiously wary of taking on the independent sector. Many of the small companies have prima donna chairmen, who enjoy running their fiefdoms. None intends to yield without a fight.

Most of the smaller companies have also enjoyed the support of loyal shareholders — whether it be small individual investors who have faith in their chairman, such as Premier's Mr Roland Shaw, or a "friendly" institution or company with a sizeable chunk of the equity.

Any predator unwise enough to bid would therefore have to be prepared for battle.

Elf's bid for Tricentral, however, could prove to be the opening shot in a battle ending in the disappearance of the consortium which owns half the Wyth Farm oil field in Dorset.

Interest in Wyth Farm has heightened considerably since BP, which owns the other half, announced a significant oil

discovery on the offshore Block 98/7, to the east of the field whose delineated extent is predominantly onshore.

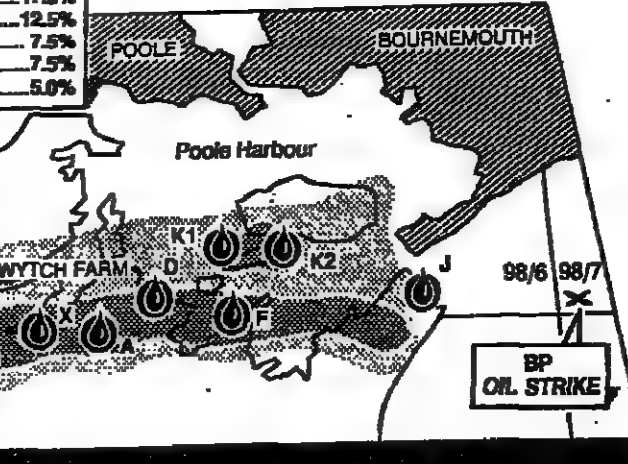
Before drilling began last September, the objective had been mapped as a separate structure which could contain about 50 million barrels of oil. But the well results appear to have thrown the geologists into some confusion.

The quality of the oil differs from that of Wyth Farm, lending weight to the argument that it is a separate accumulation. However, the oil/water contact is at the same level as Wyth Farm, suggesting the two finds might be pressure-connected. Both the Bridport and the Sherwood sands, the main Wyth Farm producing reservoirs, are present in the new find and

the important Sherwood is as good as in Wyth Farm. So while some of the consortium members are sticking to the original interpretation that it is a separate oil discovery of about 50 million barrels, others believe there is a strong possibility that the structure extends 2.5 miles to the shore, most probably as a series of oil pockets.

What is needed is a well on the intervening block 98/6. But there is a drilling ban on this block, and although two wells are planned in 1988, the ban may not be lifted before the final quarter of the year.

In the meantime, the seismic structure, which is reportedly of poor quality, is being reinterpreted with a view to remapping the area by mid-January.



Bid battle winner takes all

At last the possibility of a takeover of the independent oil sector has become a reality. BP, which has been the dominant force in the sector, has announced a bid for Tricentral.

At least two leading oil companies have decided now is the time to move on their smaller brethren. BP announced a full bid for Tricentral on Friday and Elf Aquitaine UK has bid for Tricentral.

The strategic importance of both bids is immense. If BP succeeds in buying Tricentral, it will have acquired what one oilman described as a "superb asset bag."

Just as important, their combined gas assets strengthen BP's hand in its attempt to become a leading player in a central North Sea gas-gathering pipeline, potentially giving it enough clout to offer genuine competition to British Gas in piped gas supplies.

Whoever wins Tricentral will also gain some important gas discoveries in the northern North Sea. But just as important, it will buy an entrée into that most exclusive of coteries, the Wyth Farm consortium, which owns half the Wyth Farm oil field in Dorset.

If BP, which owns the other half, is busy stitching up Tricentral, then whoever succeeds in buying up Tricentral will be in a good position to pick off the other members.

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The question of whether it

is an extension to Wyth Farm, the additional reserves could be 200 million barrels, bringing the size of the Wyth Farm accumulation up to 450 million barrels. However, the unfavourable tax treatment accorded to field extensions will reduce its value to the participants.

The area is environmentally highly sensitive, making it most likely that the new discovery, if commercial, will be produced through the Wyth Farm facilities. Rather than raise the level of peak output beyond the planned 60,000 barrels a day, it would be more likely to prolong the number of years at peak beyond 1995.

The whole area could be unutilized, and the offshore oil produced with the onshore oil.

The question of whether it

is unutilized will be a matter of some importance to the Wyth Farm consortium, which has to pay a net production interest (NPI) of 40 per cent from its onshore oil to the Government. This was part of the price of the transfer of the consortium's 50 per cent interest in the field from British Gas and first payments are expected in 1989.

The NPI is thought to be payable only on production from the onshore licence. If some of the onshore oil production is backed out in exchange for some offshore oil, it will significantly raise the cash flow of the participants.

To many industry observers, this find pumps up the juicy Wyth Farm partners for some predator's table. The comparatively minor impact the discovery has had on the onshore share prices makes the morsels all the more choice. And whoever wins Tricentral, which has 17.5 per cent of the consortium, will then be in a strong position to pick off the remainder of its independent partners.

All the other partners have one or more significant shareholders. Barmah Oil, for instance, owns 25 per cent of Premier Consolidated, which it has been free to sell since July. Nearly 50 per cent of Clyde Petroleum is controlled by five shareholders. Nearly 70 per cent of Goal Petroleum is controlled by five shareholders, of which Clyde has 21.7 per cent and the Norwegian Union 29.6 per cent. London Merchant Securities is Carless Capel & Leonard's biggest shareholder with 28.8 per cent.

Arguably, Clyde is the most attractive of the group. Whoever owns Clyde also has a useful stake in Goal. Clyde has also put together one of the most attractive packages of oilfields and acreage in the North Sea, including the promising find on block 9/18b.

In times of takeover, shareholders controlling a large block of shares can be either a blessing or a curse. So far, they have proved to be a

blessing. They hold the smaller oil companies because when they do make a discovery, it can have a disproportionate impact on their share prices. This is their attraction — one not shared by the very much larger Britoil.

Enterprise, though not as big as Britoil, is also of a size where there is less leverage to an oil find. It could, therefore, be vulnerable when its golden share expires at the end of next year, although it has built up something of a following in the City. Its biggest shareholders are ICI with 25 per cent and Lasso with 29.9 per cent.

But if the price is right, anyone can be induced to sell. BP is offering a fairly full price for Britoil, and there seems to be nothing to prevent Britoil's shareholders from accepting. If they do, commercial reality will make a nonsense of the majority voting power which is all the golden share confers.

It is also hard to see what will save Tricentral. There is a precedent for a foreign company buying an independent when the Belgian company Petrofina bought Charterhouse Petroleum. The Government may not have liked it (the Australian BHP is believed to have been warned off bidding for Lasso), but since Charterhouse invited Petrofina in, the merger was able to proceed.

Elf's bid for Tricentral is a contested bid, but board opposition to being taken over is not usually a reason for government intervention. Elf is a French company, but, unlike Australia, France is a member of the EEC and it would not go down well in the Community if Elf were discriminated against for being foreign.

It would take all the fun out of the oil sector if the independents were to disappear. But the low oil price has hit their cash flows, and while few are in real financial difficulties, they have little room for manoeuvre. Time may be running out.

Carol Ferguson

By making more things possible the Woolwich has achieved record results

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PERSONAL LOANS

Multiloan Plus — for existing Woolwich homeowners — and Multiloan are ways of getting the finance you need for personal projects such as an exotic holiday, a yacht, a new car or the pipedream that had previously seemed unattainable.

IMPOSSIBLE

ESTATE AGENCY

We have formed Woolwich Property Services to make finding and buying a house simpler and happier. We're building our own estate agency operation, designed to give value for money service.

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INSURANCE ADVICE

We have trained our staff to give advice on a range of insurance products and we can now offer Woolwich borrowers comprehensive buildings and contents insurance with our own Homewise policy.

IMPOSSIBLE

MONEY MANAGEMENT

A Cashbase Card now offers you a free standing order facility and bill payments at the touch of a button. It also earns you a tidy sum in interest at the same time.

Points made by the Chairman, Alan McLintock, C.A., in his address to the 140th Annual General Meeting held on 18th December 1987.

Before the Building Societies Act 1986 many of our last year's activities would have been impossible. But the Act has opened up many new opportunities which will benefit Woolwich customers and increase our profitability.

"We have been very active in the changed market environment that has emerged... however, we have ensured that innovation has concentrated on services that associate with and complement our central aims of providing an attractive and secure home for savings and financing house purchase and improvements.

"Despite constant pressure on net investment receipts during 1986/1987 we were still able to return record figures and achieve our targeted share of the market.

"I am pleased to report that the Woolwich performed exceptionally well and this is reflected in the accounts.

"The Woolwich is in a very good state of health and is well placed to provide the most effective service for its customers. The investments we are making in new products, services, premises, systems, staff training and development will contribute substantially to the growth of our customer appeal and financial strength."

Total Assets £9,500 million — up 18.4%.

Net receipts from investors £740 million — up 25.2%.

Home Loans up 14% to £2,077 million, lent to nearly 62,000 families.

2.9 million investors now with the Woolwich.



WOOLWICH
EQUITABLE BUILDING SOCIETY

For written details write to the Woolwich Equitable Building Society, Department M, Freeport, London SE18 1BR. Your house will be security for a mortgage or Multiloan Plus loan. All loans subject to status.

Copies of the Annual Report and the full text of the Chairman's Address are available from the Secretary, Equitable House, London SE18 6AB. The Special Resolution adopting new Rules for the Society was carried by an overwhelming majority.

ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE WITH THE WOOLWICH

Volleyball design wins prize

A new design for a portable plastic volleyball net has won this year's BASF Design Award for Mr Richard Heaves, aged 19, a student at Colchester Institute in Essex.

Mr Heaves was one of 32 entrants for the prize, awarded annually by the German plastics company in conjunction with the Plastics and Rubber Institute. He won £250, and a paid attachment for up to three months to BASF in West Germany.

The five finalists, all from Colchester Institute, included the first woman to reach the final, Miss Sally Martin, who has been deaf from birth. She designed a set of steps for exercise use.

RESULTS

TODAY — Interiors: Balleys, Buckley's Brewery, Peel Holdings, River Plate & General Investment Trust, Sutcliffe, Speakman, Fiskale: Economic Forestry Group, Munton Brothers, Reliable Properties, Spectrum Group.

TOMORROW — Interiors: Amalgamated Financial Investments, Platon International, Fiskale: Isle of Man Enterprises, Pericom.

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY: none announced

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	8.50%
BCCI	8.50%
Consolidated Credit	8.50%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
Citibank NA	8.50%

THE "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY, p.l.c.

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the register will be struck on Thursday, 7th January, 1988 for the preparation of the half-yearly dividend payable on the SECOND PREFERENCE SHARES, for the six months ending 31st January 1988. The dividend will be paid on 1st February, 1988.

For Transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the company's Registrar, Lloyds Bank p.l.c., Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, Sussex BN12 5DA, not later than 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 7th January, 1988.

By Order of the Board
S. M. ROSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Shell Centre, London, SE1 7NA
21st December, 1987

Brookmount leaps to £2.34m profit

Pretax profit at Brookmount, the USM property company, has more than tripled in the half year to September 30 from £707,000 to £2.34 million and the company is to increase its interim dividend to 1.75p from 1.3p.

Turnover was also sharply higher at £10.68 million against £2.54 million and earnings per share rose to 18.8p from 7p. The board said that the enlarged group now has the assets, the opportunities and the resources to look to the future with confidence.

The directors believe that in the present uncertain state of financial markets, it would be advantageous to shareholders if the company buys in its own shares and proposals will be circulated shortly. Mr David Calverley is appointed a non-executive director.

Bamber buy

Gaskell Broadloom has agreed to acquire Bamber, the tufted carpet maker, for an initial £800,000 comprising £650,000 cash and the issue of 107,143 ordinary shares. Under the agreement, a further consideration, up to a maximum of £300,000 in cash, may be payable depending on Bamber's results to December 31 1988.

Astbury sold

A Caird and Sons is to acquire Astbury Plant which owns a licence to operate a waste landfill site at Rossett, Clwyd.

Payout in lieu

Archimedes Investment Trust is to pay, on February 16, a second interim dividend, in lieu of a final dividend, of 7.5p making 13p (10.9p) for the year to October 31. Gross revenue was £257,696 (£228,756), tax £63,096 (£57,770), net revenue

after all charges including tax £159,898 (£133,518). Net earnings per share 13.1p (10.9p). Net asset value per capital share 431.08p (366.85p).

Plaxtons (GB)

Plaxtons (GB) is to pay a final dividend of 3p (3p) making 4.5p (same) for the year to September 30. With figures in 8000s: turnover 99,878 (36,947), profit 1,793 (483), interest payable less receivable 302 (249), pretax profit 1,491 (732), tax 268 (239), extraordinary items 413 (nil). Earnings per share 7.6p (4.2p).

No dividend

Reliant Motor will not be paying a dividend for the year to September 31. With figures in 8000s: turnover 12,529 (14,296), operating profit 369 (167), interest debt 216 (338), pretax profit 153 (loss 171), no tax (3), extraordinary debit nil (302), retained profit 153 (loss 476). Earnings per share 2.8p (loss 3.1p).

Fortress sold

Halma is to buy Fortress Interlocks and its associated company Fortress Safety Services for an initial £2,562,000 to be satisfied by £2,337,228 cash and the balance of £224,772 by the issue of ordinary shares at 137.5p each.

Richards final

Richards is to pay a final 1.9p dividend making 2.6p (1.9p) for the year to September 30. With figures in 8000s: turnover 28,179 (16,467), profit 1,455 (728), exceptional expenditure 160 (nil), pretax profit 1,295 (728), tax 336 (214). Earnings per share 7.97p (4.26p).

Midas move

Kirk-Telmik is buying Midas Audio Systems, a manufacturer of audio mixing consoles for £290,000 cash.

APPOINTMENTS

Allen & Overy: Mr David Williams, Mr John Scriven, Mr Jonathan Goodwin, Mr Peter Hoekless, Mr Paul Bedford, Mr Patrick Means, Mr David Morley and Mr Graham Winter join the partnership from January 1.

RM Douglas Construction: Mr John Brown, Mr John Shaw and Mr Graham Wentzell join the board.

Building Employers Confederation: Mr David Stone-man is made junior deputy president.

JH Minet: Mr Robert Jensen becomes executive director.

More appointments, page 22

ZETTER'S
THE POOL OF LONDON
Pays Dividends every week!

Thatcher calls halt to new enterprise zones in England

By Colin Narborough

Six years into its experiment with "enterprise zones," the Government believes these pioneering tools of the Thatcher revolution have outlived their usefulness in much of the country, and is calling a partial halt to the scheme.

No more zones will be established in England, but the way is left open for new zones and extensions of existing ones in Scotland and Wales. The situation in Northern Ireland is still being evaluated.

The 25 zones in England, Scotland and Wales enjoy important fiscal and planning advantages, including freedom from rates, during their planned 10-year lifespan.

Their aim is to foster enterprise by releasing businesses from the burdens of excessive local regulation, reflecting the Government's practice of freeing up the economy and overriding local government when it is seen as hampering the greater goal of "enterprise culture."

But such enclaves of privilege have drawn criticism from unprivileged neighbours, who charge that the zones have been flourishing at the cost of the surrounding area.



Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, has announced the enterprise zones decision in a Commons written reply.

He hailed the scheme, one of the Thatcher Government's innovations on being elected in 1979, as the "flagship of deregulation" that had helped to encourage the entre-

neurial spirit that was now such a welcome feature of the economy.

But things had not stood still since that time and the designation of the first 11 zones in 1981-82. The Government had developed a wide range of other measures, Mr Ridley pointed out, including urban development corpora-

tions and grants, to promote development in areas adversely affected by changes in the local economy.

It was also applying one of the core concepts of the enterprise zone more widely in the form of simplified planning zones.

Given that it was now able to choose from a wider range of measures best suited to a particular area's needs, the Government had concluded that a general extension of the enterprise zone experiment was "not desirable." Other solutions offered greater cost-effectiveness, Mr Ridley said.

Existing zones would be unaffected and the Government recognized that there could be "exceptional" circumstances where new zones might be the best way of overcoming a local problem.

Mr Ridley noted that evaluations by private consultants showed the zones had had varying degrees of success in regenerating economic activity in Britain.

Up to the end of last year, the number of companies involved had risen by 152 per cent, overall employment in the zones had doubled and 60 per cent of the land had been developed at a cost of £300 million.

China and US sign cloth deal

By Our City Staff

In a bilateral deal designed to protect its manufacturing industry, the United States has signed a four-year textile agreement with China, severely reducing cloth and clothing imports from China.

The agreement, announced yesterday, sets an annual limit of about 3 per cent on imports from China over four years. Exports had been growing at about 19 per cent.

Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US Trade Representative, said, "Import growth rates have been limited in all major categories, and domestic producers will now be shielded from rapid and extensive import penetration."

Last year, Washington negotiated new bilateral agreements with Japan, Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong.

Austin Rover Japan accelerates into 1990s

From David Watts, Tokyo

British cars are selling well in Japan and the Rover Sterling has had a better-than-expected first nine months.

Austin Rover Japan (ARJ) doubled its advertising budget this year and, for the first time for many years, a British-designed car has featured in newspaper and underground advertising. The expensive agreement has paid off with 1,000 Sterlings sold against a target of 800.

ARJ is now setting its sights on annual sales of 20,000-30,000 cars in the first part of the 1990s, having doubled its volume to about 6,200 cars this year - including some models it markets for Peugeot - along with special-edition Minis and Maestros. Predictions for next year are for 8,000 cars sold.

The company claims to be in "good profit" in Japan this year after doubling the number of its dealerships, half of which are exclusive. "We are now going for fundamental, long-term growth and we can see those volumes. Two years ago, we could not," said Mr Peter Woods of ARJ.

The Sterling blends English design with Honda quality-finishing. It costs 4.2 million yen (£17,573). The equivalent car in Britain costs about £19,000. It has been successful, too, in spite of the name Rover - its phonetic equivalent in Japanese means donkey.

The Sterling is selling mainly to drivers in their 40s and 50s, which suggests that ARJ will have a reasonable chance of breaking out of the

limits set by the labels exotic and foreign.

The company is planning to challenge the big Japanese manufacturers in the volume market where the Nissan Leopard, Toyota Crown and Soarer and Mazda Luce reign supreme.

ARJ is managing to cash in on a market for foreign cars which had jumped 42 per cent by the end of November with total sales of 86,095. The total annual market for new cars last year was 3.15 million. Of the foreign total, Jaguar advanced to 623 sales, 41.3 per cent up on last year's 441.

This year, Volkswagen has again topped BMW as the leading foreign brand with January-November sales of 19,570. Mercedes was in third place with 16,744.

Concern grows at grain stocks

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent
European Economic Community wheat and barley stocks are at their lowest level for more than three years and there is growing concern in some countries that supplies may fall short of demand in the coming months.

Intervention stocks of wheat have fallen to only 3 million tonnes from a record of about 12 million tonnes in November 1985.

In Britain, this figure has dropped from over 4 million tonnes to barely 1 million tonnes.

The Home Grown Cereals Authority is concerned that, in the event of a shortage of open market supplies, there would not be sufficient wheat in British intervention stores to prevent a sharp increase in prices.

Talk of possible shortages may seem extraordinary after recent reports of unmanageable grain "mountains," crippling storage charges and plans to pay farmers to take land out of production.

But the situation has occurred because of the poor harvest in northern Europe and is a reminder of the volatility and unpredictability of farming.

The farming lobby is certain to use the concern over shortages to urge EEC member governments and the European Commission not to take surplus for granted and to be flexible when introducing moves to reduce production.

The authority is critical of the commission's long-standing reluctance to release supplies from intervention stores to domestic markets, on the grounds that they could be disruptive, and its preference instead to export them to countries outside the community at heavily subsidized prices.

With market prices for milling wheat in northern Europe about 3 to 4 per cent above the intervention price - and for British and French barley 2 to 3 per cent above that - there seems little justification for continuing costly sales of grain for export when this could be used to alleviate the supply tightness on the internal market, it says.

Post-crash growth too quick for comfort

ECONOMIC VIEW

It is two months since Wall Street's Black Monday, the financial crash that was supposed to change the world. Yet the markets are as concerned as ever that the British economy is overheating. The US President and Congress are still wrangling over the final details of the package to reduce the budget deficit.

And, less than a fortnight after the publication of figures showing a record \$17.6 billion (£9.61 billion) US trade deficit, the Group of Seven plans a Christmas message emphasizing the progress being made on reducing international imbalances. The G7 statement, if it does actually appear, promises to be something of a pantomime horse and will play to a rather thin audience in the markets. Because of this, the treatment it receives may be less harsh than it deserves.

The fact remains that the minimum requirement for collective economic policy action, as 33 eminent economists pointed out last week, is a credible US budget deal. This, unfortunately, is not in place. And the difficulties in achieving even the half-hearted deficit reduction squeezed out by the congressional negotiators last month offers little encouragement.

Whether the finance ministers of the G7 - the US, Britain, West Germany, Japan, France, Italy and Canada - would do better to keep the results of their telephone conversations at the end of last week to themselves is an open question. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has described the view that exchange rate stability can lead to equity market instability as "manifest poppycock", so it clearly has something to be said for it. The danger is that another attempt to impose exchange rate stability will lead to a repeat of the sort of poppycock in the equity markets that we saw in October.

That danger aside, what is to be made of the extraordinary buoyancy of the British economy both before and after October 19? The post-crash evidence is admittedly tentative - record retail sales last month and Confederation of British Industry survey evidence - but there is little to suggest that the economy is running out of steam.

Indeed, the Henley Centre has just revised up its forecast for consumer spending growth next year to 3.6 per cent, on the argument that the spending boost after the three half-point base rate cuts since the stock market fell, will more than compensate for the negative wealth effects on the consumer from that fall.

Consumer confidence has not suffered, except for a possible tightening in the stockbroker belt, from the stock market fall. The drop in inflation as a result of the fall in world oil prices and mortgage rate cuts, the considerable pressure on the Chancellor from within his own party to cut income tax in the Budget, and the upward tick to 8 per cent in the rate of growth of average earnings all point to continued strong growth in real incomes next year.

The evidence of the economy's strength before the crash is considerable. Gross domestic product in the third quarter was 5.2 per cent up on a year earlier. Manufacturing output in the three months to October was 6.5 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1986. These figures are not of mere historical interest, they suggest a momentum for the economy that will not easily be halted.

GDP grew by 2.2 per cent in the third quarter, a quarterly increase that may have been erratically high. But, because of the quarterly profile of growth through this year, GDP would only need to hold at its third quarter level from now until the end of 1988 to produce a calendar year growth rate of 1.3 per cent for 1988 compared with 1987.

In other words, as Greenwell-Montagu points out, the slowdown in growth next year implied even by the Treasury's forecast of 2.5 per cent for next year, is very sharp, suggesting growth through 1988 of more than 1 per cent, or about a quarter of the rate through 1987.

The City University Business School today suggests 3.1 per cent growth 1988 over 1987, a forecast which is less optimistic than it looks.

The danger in all this is the familiar one of balance-of-payments weakness and sterling crisis, with January already pencilled into the diaries of some foreign exchange dealers. Goldman Sachs says the markets should not be worried about the current account deficit as long as investment in new industrial capacity is strong enough to ensure that the deterioration is only temporary. The Department of Trade and Industry's (pre-crash) investment intentions survey was bullish, pointing to a rise of 8 per cent next year. But there is an important difference between plans and achievements. It is important that investment as well as consumer spending has survived the crash.

David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Energy plea by paper industry

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's paper and board industry, said to have undergone a "remarkable" recovery in recent years, is persisting in its call for the country's mills not to be disadvantaged by increased power costs.

In a report to Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, the Paper and Board Economic Development Committee says that energy averages 18 per cent of production costs and, while energy prices in most areas are now comparable with those paid by most of the industry's competitors in the European Community, there is still concern.

Mr Geoffrey Drain, the chairman of the EDC, says in a letter to Mr Lawson that even after the introduction of

the Qualifying Industrial Consumers' Scheme (Quics) the paper and board makers estimate that only 30 per cent of the industry will qualify, and benefit from price reductions.

The British industry now comprises 69 companies, employing about 37,000 people and having a combined turnover of £1.6 billion. It is sixth among British industrial sectors as a user of energy.

Referring to the industry's recovery, Mr Drain says that in terms of investment, productivity, energy conservation, the use of re-cycled feedstock, increased exports and the subsidization of imports' market share, a good foundation had been laid for further advance.

EEC to examine small businesses

By Robert Redwell

The EEC Commission is to sponsor its first important conference on small businesses and the development of local self-help enterprises in Northern Ireland next September. It will be announced in Brussels today.

About 400 delegates from all 12 EEC nations are expected to attend, to exchange ideas and experiences of local enterprise development and to see at first hand many of Northern Ireland's initiatives in the small business field.

Brussels' decision to place the conference in Ulster followed talks last week in Belfast between Mr Peter Viggers, the Northern Ireland industry minister, and Mr Alan Mayhew, the director of

the Commission's Small Business Taskforce in Brussels.

With the establishment of its Local Enterprise Development Unit (LEDU) in 1971, Ulster became the first British region to have a specialist small business agency. More recently, 25 purely local enterprise organizations have been set up.

The many "nursery" units are being established by the local organizations, together with the NI Small Business Institute, and the wealth of initiatives, operating in everything from basic agriculture and craft to high technology, will provide a variety of case histories for study.

Million pound man signs in

While old friends and colleagues in the Square Mile are falling like flies in the current wave of redundancies, aristocratic Peregrine Moncrieff can be clearly identified as a survivor. Enticed away from his long-standing employer, American investment house Shearson Lehman, only a year ago for a reputed yearly salary of £1 million, to become chairman of the London office of beleaguered broker firm EF Hutton - spearheading its move into the London securities market - he could be forgiven for feeling somewhat embarrassed when Shearson Lehman became Hutton's new parent. But that, clearly, was not the case - or not for long. Moncrieff, a regular of that historic City watering hole Sweeting's, it seems, was rapidly accepted back into the Shearson fold even though the merger caused hundreds of job losses in both firms. He has, in fact, become such an integral part of the establishment that his signature appeared at the bottom of the letters dispatched last week to more than 300 Hutton employees telling them their services were no longer required.

Bad timing

AJ Bekhor, the broking firm reported in this column to have laid off a large number of staff on Thursday and Friday of last week, has confirmed that it did in fact dismiss 29 employees. Joint managing director Malcolm Harries tells

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Game to Goodison

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, has not had the easiest of years, what with the explosion of the stock market and then the effects of the Baa and then the effects of the Baa and then the effects of the Baa. At the Stock Exchange Christmas party last week, he came face to face with Damien McCrystal, City editor of the Sun, who has been campaigning for his dismissal. Mc-

Crystal, ever cheeky, had the effrontery to tell his "Goodison must go" badge to the thrash on the 23rd floor of the Stock Exchange tower. He also handed over a gift-wrapped T-shirt sporting the epitaph "Goodison Goes." Without a moment's hesitation, an amused Goodison retorted: "I'll wear it the next time I play tennis. That will really impress the opposition."

me: "Given that it is Christmas, the timing was unfortunate. It was something we would wish to have avoided but given the background of

the fall in the stock market and the downturn in business generally, it was a step we had to take." He added that the staff cutback had been across the board - affecting both dealers and back-office staff.



Bottled views

Brewery sector analysts are more fortunate than most - they can always count on one of their companies cheering up their Christmas. This year it was the turn of Grand Metropolitan. The analysts were seen leaving the group's Mayfair Hotel clutching discreet brown paper carrier bags which, I later discovered, contained bottles of 1975 The Singleton of Auchroisk, its new malt whisky. If their subsequent remarks about the attractions of the group's shares seem especially mellow, you will know why...

Riding the Jaguar

Heinz Branitzki, the low-profile finance director who is about to take the wheel at Porsche, is more than just a man good with figures. He can also predict the future. A colleague who shared a 130 mph ride with him on a German sports car a few years back, recalls that Branitzki confessed his admiration for Jaguar's rebirth, adding that he saw the high-performance British saloon as being the biggest threat to Porsche in the future. Porsche had the field to itself at that time, but things would not stay that way for long, he accurately foretold, especially not in the United States, which is the main market for fast cars. Peter Schurz, the man he succeeds, is leaving the company prematurely after its profits plummeted as a result of the dollar's slide and rival manufacturers penetrating the Porsche market. Passed over for the top job last time, Branitzki, aged 58, will probably view the US-oriented Schurz's demise with a certain Schadenfreude.

It seems that Chinese Walls do not have ears after all. The first large seller of British shares at 300p when BP anonymously entered the market through Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, to build up its initial stake, was the BP Pension Fund, which has an office in the BP Britannic House building, that is, I am told, not all that far from the department which handles the company's corporate investment strategy.

Carol Leonard

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(GILT-EDGED)

Fears over sterling cloud the horizon

The gilt market has not reacted positively to the recent easing in interest rates, choosing instead to discount a future tightening of policy. This has been reflected in the upward sloping yield curve. We believe this analysis is correct. However, it would be wrong to write off the gilt market completely, particularly over the next three to six months.

Not only is there the prospect of a surplus on the public sector borrowing requirement, in excess of current expectations, but British inflation fears appear to be overplayed. And, as we move into the new year, world bond markets are likely to be boosted by the perception that the biggest worry in 1988 is not inflation but the outlook for sluggish world growth.

Furthermore, the persistence of the world interest rate balance means that equity investment is still considered to be high risk. Together with a reduction in estimates of earnings and dividend growth prospects worldwide, this should continue to result in increased institutional weightings in bonds.

This disinflationary environment will not only favour harder currency bond markets but also those bond markets which have not yet seen a big easing in monetary policy.

These factors could allow a more favourable environment for gilt investment in the new year, but the gains are likely to be limited as the market discounts developments towards the end of 1988.

In particular, concerns about the current account point to sterling depreciation. By the end of 1988, we expect sterling to have steadily eased against the mark and to be slightly weaker against a dollar that will have recovered from its lows. Thus, from an international viewpoint, gilts will be underperforming other leading bond markets.

Fundamentals point to an easing of sterling on two accounts.

First, there is expected to be a further deterioration in the current account. Not only do we expect a slower rate of growth next year but, just as significantly, we forecast a change in the sectoral components of growth.

There is expected to be a shift towards consumer demand in 1988. The negative wealth effect will be more than offset by recent falls in interest rates and the improved outlook for inflation. Set against a background of strong earnings growth, this will underpin consumer spending and feed further import demand.

More disappointingly, world trade looks set to be increasingly sluggish. The United States in 1988 is no longer likely to be the locomotive of the world economy and, with the exception of Japan, the weak growth in the main non-US economies presents limited scope for exports to grow without a boost to price competitiveness.

Also, while sterling is no longer considered as a petrocurrency, an easier trend for oil prices will cause sentiment to favour a sterling decline. With oil prices expected to remain sluggish well into 1988, this will help to reduce inflationary fears worldwide but the impact on the British trade balance will be negative, with the oil balance declining.

As a result, we expect a rapid deterioration of the trade deficit, particularly in the second half of the year, contributing to a current account deficit approaching £5 billion in 1988.

Secondly, Britain's rate of inflation is set to exceed that in West Germany in 1988 by some 2.7 per cent, 4 per cent against 1.3 per cent. While the Government is still committed to an anti-inflationary strategy, we believe that policy is unlikely to aim at keeping sterling stable against the mark, as that would imply a real appreciation of the sterling exchange rate which would harm the price competitiveness of British exports.

Such features are likely to be discounted by the foreign exchange market, thus putting sterling under downward pressure even before the problems materialize. However, the depreciation of sterling is likely to be steady and not rapid because of the probable policy response by the British authorities.

Britain has a high level of reserves, \$41.3 billion at the

end of November, and this should allow intervention to offset any substantial downward pressure on sterling. Also, there is scope for future rises in base rates.

Base rates now stand at 4.5 per cent in real terms. This high level reflects the risk associated with holding sterling-based assets as well as Bank of England concern about the high growth rates of the domestic monetary aggregates.

The worry regarding domestic monetary growth is that easier interest rates may result in some of the funds currently in interest-bearing accounts being liquidated and transmitted into increased spending on goods.

If this proved to be the case, then this could exert upward pressure on prices or exacerbate the trend on the current account.

On the external front, the lack of significant fiscal policy easing outside the US and the persistence of world wide trade deficits will see the dollar taking the strain of adjustment, as the American authorities are unwilling to raise rates. However, almost all the bad news relating to the dollar is in the market and as the trend correction in the US deficit takes place, the dollar will start to stabilize in the first half of 1988.

If sterling is to be weaker next year, then this could prompt early overseas selling of gilts. In fact an important recent development for the gilts market has been increased purchases of gilts by the overseas investors. For instance, the overseas sector purchased just 13.1 per cent of net gilt sales in 1984-85, with this ratio rising to 40.1 per cent in 1986-87. And in the first half of this financial year, overseas purchases have soared.

The disinflationary environment should allow some recovery in yields in the new year. After that, however, concerns over the trade deficit will put sterling under downward pressure and give base rates an upward momentum in 1988. Prompted by overseas selling, we would expect yields to rise towards the second half of 1988.

Gerard Lyons
SBCI Savory Miln

Auditors unscathed by Black Monday

By Ronald Faux
Employment Affairs Correspondent

The stock market crash has left the accountancy profession largely unscathed. According to Mr Robert Walters, a leading financial recruitment consultant, demand for accountancy skills remains undiminished. "Put simply, after a crisis a good accountant is essential," he said.

The range of responsibilities of accountants and the relatively static number qualifying each year had meant opportunities were multiplying.

One constraint that had prevented even more movement in the profession had been the steady year-on-year bonuses paid by many large organizations to keep the right candidates.



Robert Walters: openings

ment in the profession had been the steady year-on-year bonuses paid by many large organizations to keep the right candidates.

For qualified accountants who had fallen victim to the crash the opportunities remained good, he said. The old notion that quality might be measured by length of service no longer applied and the name of a "high-profile" institution on a curriculum vitae was now more important than the fact that a career with that company might have been short.

The crash had brought other changes to the accountancy jobs market, particularly short-term contracts.

"In our experience, a good candidate with a sound track record is likely at the moment to have four job offers in two weeks and we have at least three City institutions looking for senior people. Basic salary would be up to £50,000 but, with a package of extras, that could be worth a total of £110,000," Mr Walters said.

The yardstick high-fliers could use to measure minimum successful progress was a salary of at least £1,000 for every year of their lives.

After the crash, fears of inflation are misplaced Liquidity boost no cause for panic in the City

Officials and politicians from many countries have emphasized the importance, after the stock market crash, of ensuring the liquidity of the financial system. The markets, however, have already begun to worry about the ensuing inflationary dangers, thereby limiting the authorities' room for manoeuvre. But a careful look at what the authorities have done suggests that markets should be concerned, not whether official action has gone too far, but whether it has gone far enough.

Liquidity, as the Radcliffe Committee put it nearly 30 years ago, is a slippery concept. The worst nightmare central bankers have about the liquidity of the financial system is a run on the banks. If central banks then do nothing, there can easily be a financial collapse, as banks never hold enough cash to meet all claims at once.

If depositors lose confidence in a particular bank for no good reason, it ought to be able to raise cash from other banks or financial institutions through the wholesale market. But it will not be able to if panic is general, or the public is worried about a bank for good reason.

The classic central bank prescription for such a case is to provide the public with cash until its desire for "liquidity" is sated, then return to normal. The usual way would be to buy (and later sell back) bills or short-term government paper held by the banking system.

This would be reflected in a jump in M0 until things returned to normal. Because cash holdings outside the banks (which make up the majority of M0) are small in relation to bank deposits, a proper panic would cause a sizeable jump in M0.

But M1 would be unaffected. Its bank deposit component would fall, exactly counterbalancing the higher notes and coin component.

No panic of this sort has followed the stock market crash. Nevertheless, the Bank of England and other central banks have been operating a policy skin to supplying extra cash demanded by the public.

They have been prepared to keep the banking system flush with the bankers' equivalent

of cash — deposits at the Bank of England — to keep short-term interest rates down. The money market is so sensitive that a little extra cash in the system can cut rates markedly. So the effect of this policy shows in lower interest rates, rather than "liquidity," helped by the central bank being prepared to supply cash at those lower rates.

Lower rates will help beleaguered borrowers by reducing the cost of finance. And the guaranteed supply of liquidity to the system as a whole may dissuade potential lenders from playing ultra-safe with credit risks.

If markets have serious doubts about a particular house, however, this does not help. It may even be counter-

productive, as markedly lower short rates reduce the cost of avoiding risk by keeping funds idle.

World central banks, including the Bank of England, are also said to have increased liquidity by foreign exchange intervention in support of the dollar. This has boosted domestic money stocks outside the US. The authorities must then choose whether to offset, or "sterilize," these increases by sales of government debt.

In the event, sterilization has been far from complete. The British authorities have dropped their previous policy of sterilizing automatically within the financial year, in favour of doing so only when conditions are "appropriate." Translating, this means "not now."

The result is often called an increase in liquidity, but amounts to an increase in money supply, measured on the broad definition (M3), but not on the narrow (M0).

The increase is, however, of a particular sort, caused by swapping one type of asset (foreign currency bank deposits) for another (domestic bank deposits). That is quite different from an increase in money stock resulting from higher bank lending.

This is where the knee-jerk monetarists have made a serious error. The authorities

have come in for hard criticism for unsterilized intervention. This, they are told, runs the risk of re-igniting inflation. So the market shudders with fear of recession and inflation at the same time.

The choice of whether or not to sterilize after intervention affects the composition of domestic currency portfolios. Not sterilizing raises the weighting of money in portfolios. This will tend to encourage wealth holders to buy assets, mainly financial assets such as shares, bonds and eventually property.

In principle, this could lead to inflationary pressures if asset prices are inflated by the portfolio switch out of money, with the result that spending is boosted by increased wealth.

It was no easy matter putting the rescue package together

and by a reduction in the cost of capital. But, in practice, does anyone seriously suggest that this is a danger now? It is as much as the authorities can do to sustain wealth at the now substantially reduced levels.

Moreover, if the policy were subsequently to succeed, the evidence of it would be rising stock market values. And the way to offset the inflationary dangers would be obvious, too — sterilization.

So, in the name of promoting "liquidity," the authorities have done two things — reduced interest rates, and increased the broad money supply through intervention. But neither of these addresses the problem of difficulties suffered by particular institutions, and the danger of their illiquidity spreading throughout the financial system.

The modern equivalent of the classic banking panic would be financial institutions in the wholesale markets refusing to lend to a particular house or houses which need funds to meet their obligations. Instead they would prefer to pile up deposits with the clearing banks. If support is not forthcoming then the houses in difficulty would fail, with untold effect on public confidence in the financial system as a whole.

Yet sound financial institutions looking individually at

the prospect of lending to a beleaguered house see the credit risk looming large. They would always rather someone else did the job, and this is where the central bank is vital.

When the Bank of England has confronted such problems in the past, it has never been the sole or even the main provider of funds. Rather it has acted as the co-ordinator and cajoler of a group of major private sector institutions which have put their funds up in support of beleaguered houses.

This is the sort of operation which the Bank of England organized in 1973-74 under arrangements known as the Lifeboat. But we now know that it was no easy matter putting the rescue package together, as it involved persuading key institutions to take larger stakes in companies in deep trouble, and persuading the major banks to make loans to those companies when the market more generally would not.

So far as we know, there have been no comparable difficulties caused by the recent stock market crash, at least in Britain. We can only hope that, having organized such operations before, the Bank would be able to organize them again.

It is important, however, that both markets and politicians are prepared to give their wholehearted support. And it must be said that the increasingly competitive nature of the financial markets now almost certainly makes it more difficult for the Bank to persuade private sector institutions to come to the aid of some of their brethren.

However great our confidence in the Bank of England, can we be sure of other markets, and other central banks? This sort of liquidity-support operation, the sort that really matters, remains untested in the current crisis.

The country with the greatest potential vulnerability is Japan, where asset values have soared highest. Perhaps this is one instance when we should all be thankful for the Japanese authorities' ability to induce private institutions to act in the national interest.

Roger Bootle
Economic adviser
Lloyds Merchant Bank

APPOINTMENTS

New group managing director for Conoco

Conoco: Mr Terry Moore becomes group managing director and chief executive and Mr David Watts managing director, supply and trading Europe.

Rogers & Jackson: Mr Mike McNicholas has been made managing director.

British Printing Industries Federation: Mr Colin Stanley will be director general from April 1.

Addax UK: Mr Robert McCulloch becomes sales director.

Hammond & Deacon: Ms Margaret Charrington has been named non-executive chairman.

Abbey: Mr Charles Gallagher becomes a deputy chairman, Mr Desmond Galles a director and Mr Joseph Davy a non-executive director.

JW Barber & Son: Mr Stan Goakes has been made managing director.

Oceanic Financial Services: Miss Diana Noronha becomes vice-president.

Stock Beech: Mr Robin du Boulay, Mr Neil Campbell, Mr James Fox, Mr Colin Garrett, Ms Margaret Hankin and Ms Pamela Reid become associate directors. Mr Tony Tarr joins the board of Stock Beech Market Makers.

Franchise Investors: Mr Simon Beecroft has been appointed director, new projects.

St James's Public Relations: Mr Tony Slaughter has been named chief executive and also a director of St James's Corporate Communications.

Lazard Brothers: Mr Philip Hampton, Mr Neil Lakes, Mr John Scott and Mr Kevin Wilson become directors from January 1.

Bechtel: Mr Kenneth Tarnatani has been made managing director, succeeding Mr Riley Bechtel, who becomes executive vice president, Bechtel Group.

CRH: Mr Jack Hayes becomes managing director, finance and development, Mr Harry Sherman finance director, Mr Diamond Quirk managing director, CRH, UK.

DC Cook Holdings: Mr Andrew Derry has been made deputy chairman, Mr Peter Kerley managing director, DC Cook Motor Division (Yorkshire), Mr Colin Armitage managing director, DC Cook Motor Division (Lancashire), Mr Gerry Hart financial director, DC Cook Motor Division (Yorkshire), Mr Berrie Singlestone financial director, DC Cook Motor Division (Lancashire), Mr Richard Testum director, after sales, DC Cook Motor Division (Yorkshire) and Mr Neil Cooke fleet sales director, DC Cook Motor Division (Yorkshire).

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES		
Market rates for December 18		Range	Close	1 month	3 months		
New York	1.8250-1.8300	1.8250-1.8285	0.00-0.00	0.43-0.38	0.43-0.38	Australia (estmt)	6.0580-6.1040
London	2.3335-2.4022	2.3335-2.3872	0.11p-0.00	0.12p-0.11	0.12p-0.11	Argentina (estmt)	0.9810-0.9550
Amsterdam	3.3470-3.3550	3.3518-3.3580	14-15	34-31p	34-31p	Brazil (estmt)	1.2420-1.2500
Frankfurt	62.10-62.40	62.10-62.30	15-16	34-31p	34-31p	Cyprus (estmt)	0.9010-0.9200
Paris	11.4510-11.5010	11.4510-11.4710	14-15	34-31p	34-31p	Finland (estmt)	7.3550-7.3560
Copenhagen	11.4511-11.5281	11.4511-11.4978	14-15	34-31p	34-31p	France (estmt)	7.3550-7.3560
Dublin	1.1178-1.1238	1.1221-1.1233	7p-7p	150p-7p	150p-7p	Hong Kong (estmt)	14.225-14.236
Geneva	201.45-202.05	201.45-202.05	15-16	150p-7p	150p-7p	India (estmt)	23.90-23.96
London	201.45-202.05	201.45-202.05	20-25	150p-7p	150p-7p	Indonesia (estmt)	23.90-23.96
Madrid	201.45-202.05	201.45-202.05	20-25	150p-7p	150p-7p	Japan (estmt)	23.90-23.96
Milan	2187.71-2195.45	2188.00-2193.00	20-25	150p-7p	150p-7p	Malaysia (estmt)	4.5517-4.5580
Osaka	2187.71-2195.45	2188.00-2193.00	20-25	150p-7p	150p-7p	Mexico (estmt)	4.0110-4.0580
Stockholm	11.6590-11.7278	11.6590-11.7051	6-6 1/2	150p-7p	150p-7p	Peru (estmt)	2.12-2.12
Tokyo	21.81-21.815	21.815-21.815	6-6 1/2	150p-7p	150p-7p	South Africa (estmt)	8.8772-8.9791
Zurich	10.8181-10.8171	10.8222-10.8254	6-6 1/2	150p-7p	150p-7p	Switzerland (estmt)	8.8772-8.9791
	21.81-21.815	21.820-21.825	6-6 1/2	150p-7p	150p-7p	UAE (estmt)	3.5303-3.5387
	2.4170-2.4287	2.4231-2.4387	14-15	150p-7p	150p-7p	UAE (estmt)	8.7350-8.7370
Premiums = pr. Discount = d.							
Sterling index compared with 1975 base of 100 = 75.6							
*Lloyds Bank Rates applied by Cable and Reuters to 1975							
*Lloyds Bank Rates applied by Cable and Reuters to 1975							

Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end January 8. Contango day January 11. Settlement day January 18.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP									
No.	Company	Group	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E	Dividend	P/E
1	Barclays	Banking	125.00	+0.25	1.50	1.20%	12.50	1.50	12.50
2	Bank of Scotland	Banking	110.00	+0.10	1.20	1.10%	11.00	1.20	11.00
3	Bank of Ireland	Banking	105.00	+0.15	1.10	1.05%	10.50	1.10	10.50
4	Bank of London	Banking	115.00	+0.20	1.30	1.15%	11.50	1.30	11.50
5	Bank of Montreal	Banking	120.00	+0.25	1.40	1.17%	12.00	1.40	12.00
6	Bank of North America	Banking	125.00	+0.30	1.50	1.20%	12.50	1.50	12.50
7	Bank of New York	Banking	130.00	+0.35	1.60	1.23%	13.00	1.60	13.00
8	Bank of Paris	Banking	135.00	+0.40	1.70	1.26%	13.50	1.70	13.50
9	Bank of Rome	Banking	140.00	+0.45	1.80	1.29%	14.00	1.80	14.00
10	Bank of Spain	Banking	145.00	+0.50	1.90	1.32%	14.50	1.90	14.50
11	Bank of Tokyo	Banking	150.00	+0.55	2.00	1.33%	15.00	2.00	15.00
12	Bank of West	Banking	155.00	+0.60	2.10	1.35%	15.50	2.10	15.50
13	Bank of America	Banking	160.00	+0.65	2.20	1.38%	16.00	2.20	16.00
14	Bank of Canada	Banking	165.00	+0.70	2.30	1.40%	16.50	2.30	16.50
15	Bank of China	Banking	170.00	+0.75	2.40	1.41%	17.00	2.40	17.00
16	Bank of India	Banking	175.00	+0.80	2.50	1.43%	17.50	2.50	17.50
17	Bank of Japan	Banking	180.00	+0.85	2.60	1.44%	18.00	2.60	18.00
18	Bank of Korea	Banking	185.00	+0.90	2.70	1.46%	18.50	2.70	18.50
19	Bank of Mexico	Banking	190.00	+0.95	2.80	1.47%	19.00	2.80	19.00
20	Bank of Peru	Banking	195.00	+1.00	2.90	1.49%	19.50	2.90	19.50
21	Bank of Russia	Banking	200.00	+1.05	3.00	1.50%	20.00	3.00	20.00
22	Bank of South Africa	Banking	205.00	+1.10	3.10	1.51%	20.50	3.10	20.50
23	Bank of Sweden	Banking	210.00	+1.15	3.20	1.52%	21.00	3.20	21.00
24	Bank of Switzerland	Banking	215.00	+1.20	3.30	1.54%	21.50	3.30	21.50
25	Bank of Taiwan	Banking	220.00	+1.25	3.40	1.55%	22.00	3.40	22.00
26	Bank of Thailand	Banking	225.00	+1.30	3.50	1.56%	22.50	3.50	22.50
27	Bank of the Netherlands	Banking	230.00	+1.35	3.60	1.58%	23.00	3.60	23.00
28	Bank of Belgium	Banking	235.00	+1.40	3.70	1.59%	23.50	3.70	23.50
29	Bank of France	Banking	240.00	+1.45	3.80	1.60%	24.00	3.80	24.00
30	Bank of Germany	Banking	245.00	+1.50	3.90	1.62%	24.50	3.90	24.50
31	Bank of Italy	Banking	250.00	+1.55	4.00	1.63%	25.00	4.00	25.00
32	Bank of Greece	Banking	255.00	+1.60	4.10	1.64%	25.50	4.10	25.50
33	Bank of Portugal	Banking	260.00	+1.65	4.20	1.65%	26.00	4.20	26.00
34	Bank of Spain	Banking	265.00	+1.70	4.30	1.66%	26.50	4.30	26.50
35	Bank of Turkey	Banking	270.00	+1.75	4.40	1.67%	27.00	4.40	27.00
36	Bank of Argentina	Banking	275.00	+1.80	4.50	1.68%	27.50	4.50	27.50
37	Bank of Brazil	Banking	280.00	+1.85	4.60	1.69%	28.00	4.60	28.00
38	Bank of Chile	Banking	285.00	+1.90	4.70	1.70%	28.50	4.70	28.50
39	Bank of Colombia	Banking	290.00	+1.95	4.80	1.71%	29.00	4.80	29.00
40	Bank of Costa Rica	Banking	295.00	+2.00	4.90	1.72%	29.50	4.90	29.50
41	Bank of Cuba	Banking	300.00	+2.05	5.00	1.73%	30.00	5.00	30.00
42	Bank of Ecuador	Banking	305.00	+2.10	5.10	1.74%	30.50	5.10	30.50
43	Bank of El Salvador	Banking	310.00	+2.15	5.20	1.75%	31.00	5.20	31.00
44	Bank of Guatemala	Banking	315.00	+2.20	5.30	1.76%	31.50	5.30	31.50
45	Bank of Honduras	Banking	320.00	+2.25	5.40	1.77%	32.00	5.40	32.00
46	Bank of Nicaragua	Banking	325.00	+2.30	5.50	1.78%	32.50	5.50	32.50
47	Bank of Panama	Banking	330.00	+2.35	5.60	1.79%	33.00	5.60	33.00
48	Bank of Paraguay	Banking	335.00	+2.40	5.70	1.80%	33.50	5.70	33.50
49	Bank of Peru	Banking	340.00	+2.45	5.80	1.81%	34.00	5.80	34.00
50	Bank of Uruguay	Banking	345.00	+2.50	5.90	1.82%	34.50	5.90	34.50
51	Bank of Venezuela	Banking	350.00	+2.55	6.00	1.83%	35.00	6.00	35.00
52	Bank of Zimbabwe	Banking	355.00	+2.60	6.10	1.84%	35.50	6.10	35.50
53	Bank of South Korea	Banking	360.00	+2.65	6.20	1.85%	36.00	6.20	36.00
54	Bank of Taiwan	Banking	365.00	+2.70	6.30	1.86%	36.50	6.30	36.50
55	Bank of Hong Kong	Banking	370.00	+2.75	6.40	1.87%	37.00	6.40	37.00
56	Bank of Singapore	Banking	375.00	+2.80	6.50	1.88%	37.50	6.50	37.50
57	Bank of Malaysia	Banking	380.00	+2.85	6.60	1.89%	38.00	6.60	38.00
58	Bank of Indonesia	Banking	385.00	+2.90	6.70	1.90%	38.50	6.70	38.50
59	Bank of Philippines	Banking	390.00	+2.95	6.80	1.91%	39.00	6.80	39.00
60	Bank of Thailand	Banking	395.00	+3.00	6.90	1.92%	39.50	6.90	39.50
61	Bank of Vietnam	Banking	400.00	+3.05	7.00	1.93%	40.00	7.00	40.00
62	Bank of Laos	Banking	405.00	+3.10	7.10	1.94%	40.50	7.10	40.50
63	Bank of Cambodia	Banking	410.00	+3.15	7.20	1.95%	41.00	7.20	41.00
64	Bank of Myanmar	Banking	415.00	+3.20	7.30	1.96%	41.50	7.30	41.50
65	Bank of Sri Lanka	Banking	420.00	+3.25	7.40	1.97%	42.00	7.40	42.00
66	Bank of Bangladesh	Banking	425.00	+3.30	7.50	1.98%	42.50	7.50	42.50
67	Bank of Pakistan	Banking	430.00	+3.35	7.60	1.99%	43.00	7.60	43.00
68	Bank of Afghanistan	Banking	435.00	+3.40	7.70	2.00%	43.50	7.70	43.50
69	Bank of Iran	Banking	440.00	+3.45	7.80	2.01%	44.00	7.80	44.00
70	Bank of Iraq	Banking	445.00	+3.50	7.90	2.02%	44.50	7.90	44.50
71	Bank of Kuwait	Banking	450.00	+3.55	8.00	2.03%	45.00	8.00	45.00
72	Bank of Bahrain	Banking	455.00	+3.60	8.10	2.04%	45.50	8.10	45.50
73	Bank of Qatar	Banking	460.00	+3.65	8.20	2.05%	46.00	8.20	46.00
74	Bank of Oman	Banking	465.00	+3.70	8.30	2.06%	46.50	8.30	46.50
75	Bank of Yemen	Banking	470.00	+3.75	8.40	2.07%	47.00	8.40	47.00
76	Bank of Jordan	Banking	475.00	+3.80	8.50	2.08%	47.50	8.50	47.50
77	Bank of Lebanon	Banking	480.00	+3.85	8.60	2.09%	48.00	8.60	48.00
78	Bank of Syria	Banking	485.00	+3.90	8.70	2.10%	48.50	8.70	48.50
79	Bank of Cyprus	Banking	490.00	+3.95	8.80	2.11%	49.00	8.80	49.00
80	Bank of Israel	Banking	495.00	+4.00	8.90	2.12%	49.50	8.90	49.50
81	Bank of Egypt	Banking	500.00	+4.05	9.00	2.13%	50.00	9.00	50.00
82	Bank of Sudan	Banking	505.00	+4.10	9.10	2.14%	50.50	9.10	50.50
83	Bank of Ethiopia	Banking	510.00	+4.15	9.20	2.15%	51.00	9.20	51.00
84	Bank of Kenya	Banking	515.00	+4.20	9.30	2.16%	51.50	9.30	51.50
85	Bank of Uganda	Banking	520.00	+4.25	9.40	2.17%	52.00	9.40	52.00
86	Bank of Rwanda	Banking	525.00	+4.30	9.50	2.18%	52.50	9.50	52.50
87	Bank of Burundi	Banking	530.00	+4.35	9.60	2.19%	53.00	9.60	53.00
88	Bank of Tanzania	Banking	535.00	+4.40	9.70	2.20%	53.50	9.70	53.50
89	Bank of Malawi	Banking	540.00	+4.45	9.80	2.21%	54.00	9.80	54.00
90	Bank of Zambia	Banking	545.00	+4.50	9.90	2.22%	54.50	9.90	54.50
91	Bank of Botswana	Banking	550.00	+4.55	10.00	2.23%	55.00	10.00	55.00
92	Bank of Namibia	Banking	555.00	+4.60	10.10	2.24%	55.50	10.10	55.50
93	Bank of South Africa	Banking	560.00	+4.65	10.20	2.25%	56.00	10.20	56.00
94	Bank of Mozambique	Banking	565.00	+4.70	10.30	2.26%	56.50	10.30	56.50
95	Bank of Angola	Banking	570.00	+4.75	10.40	2.27%	57.00	10.40	57.00
96	Bank of Guinea	Banking	575.00	+4.80	10.50	2.28%	57.50	10.50	57.50
97	Bank of Sierra Leone	Banking	580.00	+4.85	10.60	2.29%	58.00	10.60	58.00
98	Bank of Liberia	Banking	585.00	+4.90	10.70	2.30%	58.50	10.70	58.50
99	Bank of Ivory Coast	Banking	590.00	+4.95	10.80	2.31%	59.00	10.80	59.00
100	Bank of Senegal	Banking	595.00	+5.00	10.90	2.32%	59.50	10.90	59.50

Portfolio - Gold -

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Claims required for
+52 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

OVERSEAS TRADERS									
No.	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E	No.	Company	Price
1	British Overseas Airways	125.00	+0.25	1.50	1.20%	12.50	1	British Overseas Airways	125.00
2	British Airways	110.00	+0.10	1.20	1.10%	11.00	2	British Airways	110.00
3	British Airways	105.00	+0.15	1.10	1.05%	10.50	3	British Airways	105.00
4	British Airways	115.00	+0.20	1.30	1.15%	11.50	4	British Airways	115.00
5	British Airways	120.00	+0.25	1.40	1.17%	12.00	5	British Airways	120.00
6	British Airways	125.00	+0.30	1.50	1.20%	12.50	6	British Airways	125.00
7	British Airways	130.00	+0.35	1.60	1.23%	13.00	7	British Airways	130.00
8	British Airways	135.00	+0.40	1.70	1.26%	13.50	8	British Airways	135.00
9	British Airways	140.00	+0.45	1.80	1.29%	14.00	9	British Airways	140.00
10	British Airways	145.00	+0.50	1.90	1.32%	14.50	10	British Airways	145.00

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING									
No.	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E	No.	Company	Price
1	British Overseas Airways	125.00	+0.25	1.50	1.20%	12.50	1	British Overseas Airways	125.00
2	British Airways	110.00	+0.10	1.20	1.10%	11.00	2	British Airways	110.00
3	British Airways	105.00	+0.15	1.10	1.05%	10.50	3	British Airways	105.00
4	British Airways	115.00	+0.20	1.30	1.15%	11.50	4	British Airways	115.00
5	British Airways	120.00	+0.25	1.40	1.17%	12.00	5	British Airways	120.00
6	British Airways	125.00	+0.30	1.50	1.20%	12.50	6	British Airways	125.00
7	British Airways	130.00	+0.35	1.60	1.23%	13.00	7	British Airways	130.00
8	British Airways	135.00	+0.40	1.70	1.26%	13.50	8	British Airways	135.00
9	British Airways	140.00	+0.45	1.80	1.29%	14.00	9	British Airways	140.00
10	British Airways	145.00	+0.50	1.90	1.32%	14.50	10	British Airways	145.00

PROPERTY									
44.86	Allied Lns	100	-0.1	2.9	3.2	11.9			
191.26	Amalgam Bns	105	+0.1	1.7	16.1				
1.0	Amalgam Bns	100	+0.4	1.0	1.2	4.1			
1.0	Amalgam Bns	100	+0.4	1.0	1.2	4.1			
41.56	Amalgam Bns	100	+0.1	1.0	1.2	4.1			
41.56	Barclays & Noy	275	+0.1	1.0	1.2	4.1			
20.20	Bellon (P)	275	+0.1	1.0	1.2	4.1			
185.66	Bradford	275	+0.1	1.0	1.2	4.1			
852.26	Br Land	275	+0.1	1.0	1.2	4.1			
260.06	Br Land	275	+0.1	1.0	1.2	4.1			
1.0	CALA	107	+0.1	1.0	1.2	4.1			
1.0	Caled Unl Adm	107	+0.1	1.0	1.2	4.1			
742.26	Cap & Courses	200	+15	11.0	0.1	25.0			
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POSTS

Slough Industrial Language Centre
requires

Lecturer II (permanent) Lecturer II (one-year temporary)

"SILC" is seeking suitable persons to join this dynamic team as soon as possible. The Centre provides a training and consultancy service for employers and employees in both the public and private sectors, for trade unions and for community organisations.

The work involves designing and delivering training programmes, advising organisations on policies and practices and promoting the services to employers. We are looking for people committed to the principle of equal opportunity and aware of related current issues.

Secondment will be favourably considered for the temporary post.

For further information and an application form contact:

The Staffing Officer
Slough College of Higher Education
Wellington Street
Slough SL1 1YG
Tel: Slough (0753) 34585

An Equal Opportunities Employer
Slough College

NEW TERTIARY COLLEGE, DAVENTRY APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL

Following the Secretary of State's approval of the Authority's plans for the reorganisation of secondary and further education in Daventry, to take effect in September 1989, applications are invited for the post of PRINCIPAL of the new Tertiary College (Group 4) to cater for the full range of educational needs of the over 16's.

Further details and application forms, to be returned by 22 January, are available from the County Education Officer (FE), Northampton House, Northampton, NN1 2HX. Telephone: (0604) 236309.

Education
Northamptonshire
welcomes applications regardless of marital status, sex, race and disability.

Sandwell College of Further and Higher Education PRINCIPAL LECTURER in TAXATION AND ACCOUNTING - FINANCIAL SERVICES

Salary £14,784 - £18,588

To teach taxation at final professional accountancy level and final year of the Institute of Taxation, also to teach financial accountancy on AAT and Professional Courses.

Applicants should be qualified Accountants or equivalent, i.e. current revenue experience, and should be a member of the Institute of Taxation.

Closing date Wednesday, January 20, 1988.

Further details and an application form available from Mrs J. Eaton, College Personnel Officer, Sandwell College of Further and Higher Education, Woles Road South, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 0PE, or telephone 021-556 6000 extension 267.

LONDON SCHOOL OF FOREIGN TRADE VICE PRINCIPAL

Academic/Marketing

Applications are invited from women and men of graduate/professional status. Post available from March 1988. For further details contact: London School of Foreign Trade, 91 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6 2NF. Tel: 01-834 8811.

**PART-TIME
LAW TUTOR**
required, initially two hours per week, more possible. Contact: Tony Saunders-Cox, Richmond Adult College, Clifton Road, Twickenham TW1 4LT. Tel: 01-891 5507.

SCHOLARSHIPS

DOWNSIDE SCHOOL

(Roman Catholic Benedictine Community)

SIXTH FORM ENTRY: up to £4,000 p.a. for two years. Decided by short examination and interview at Downside on 30th-31st January 1988.

THIRD FORM ENTRY: up to £4,000 p.a. for five years. Decided by examination and interview at Downside 19th-20th May, 1988. Open to all who are under 14 on the day of the examination.

SPECIAL AWARDS: there are also awards for ART, MATHEMATICS and MUSIC (choral and instrumental). These are available at 3rd Form entry and are worth up to £1,000 p.a. for five years.

ALL AWARDS MAY BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A BURSARY.

Write for details to: The Revd. Head Master, Downside School, Stratton-on-the-Fosse, BATH, BA3 4RJ.

SHREWSBURY SCHOOL

Scholarships

Up to twenty-two scholarships are awarded annually to boys of academic or musical ability. The top ten academic scholarships (awarded in May) are worth one half, one third or one quarter of the fees and there are also six smaller awards. All are inflation-linked. Two scholarships of half-fees are available for Sixth Form entrants (awarded in February). Up to four music scholarships, maximum value of half-fees (awarded in February) are also available.

Full details from The Headmaster, The Schools, Shrewsbury School, Shrewsbury SY3 7BA. (Tel: 0743 4537).

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Department of Engineering

LUCAS PROFESSOR OF ELECTRONICS

Applications are invited for a new Professorship in Electronics within the Department of Engineering. This post, several additional lectureships in Electronics, have been created as part of the major expansion of the first-degree courses in Engineering Electronics and Computer Systems Engineering. The successful applicant will have a distinguished research record in the general area of Electronics or related fields, such as microprocessor applications, optoelectronics, image processing and microwaves and will be expected to play a leading part in the stimulation of research and the development of teaching programmes, both within Engineering and in collaboration with the Departments of Computer Science and Physics.

The appointment will be offered on the Professorial Scale (under review). From 1st March 1988 it is expected that the minimum salary on this Scale will be £23,380 p.a. and the average, £28,820 p.a.

Applications (3 copies) to the Registrar, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL from whom further particulars may be obtained (0223 526267), quoting Ref. No. 17/4/87 (please mark clearly on envelope). Closing date for applications is 29th January 1988.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Applications with c.v. (6 copies) including the names and addresses of 3 referees, should be sent not later than Friday 8 January 1988 to The Secretary, The University, Dundee DD1 4HN. Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Office, telephone Dundee (0382) 23181 ext. 4018. Please quote reference EST/37/87.

Applications with c.v. (6 copies) including the names and addresses of 3 referees, should be sent not later than Friday 8 January 1988 to The Secretary, The University, Dundee DD1 4HN. Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Office, telephone Dundee (0382) 23181 ext. 4018. Please quote reference EST/37/87.

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